METRO / A17

All dogs (and cats) go to heaven in style in this pet memorial

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves seen at $31B by yearend

WORLD / A19

21 convicted of Madrid train bombings; alleged mastermind acquitted

SPORTS / A21

Harry Tañamor survives Tajik boxer, makes it to Beijing Olympics

Relatives remember 800 victims of political slays

RELATIVES OF MORE THAN 800 VICTIMS of extrajudicial killings in the country grieve for their loved ones and cry for justice as the nation commemorates the days of the departed. Some 160 of the victims were from Southern Tagalog.

Arman Albarillo, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern

RELATIVES/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, November 2, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 327 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Court resurrects 'dead' husband, chides wife

By Leila B. Salaverria

SOMETIMES THE dead can be brought back to life.

The Court of Appeals has reversed a lower court decision that declared a man

COURT/ A7

NAAAY! NABUHAY ANG BANGKAY!

Oil hits record $96/barrel

Price seen spiking to $100 due to low supplies, weak dollar

SINGAPORE—THE PRICE OF oil rose to a new record above US$96 a barrel on Thursday after a surprise drop in US crude stockpiles raised concerns about supplies for the coming winter demand.

A further weakening of the US dollar as a result of the Federal Reserve's move to cut interest rates by a quarter point and data showing strong US economic growth also contributed to the oil price spike.

Analysts said they didn't see anything standing in the way of a run to US$100 per barrel after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) continued to resist calls for more oil production. Opec said the roaring market was beyond its control, with the cartel blaming speculation and politics for the surge in price.

A senior Asian Development Bank official yesterday said the cost of fuel in Asia was still manageable, but he warned that further rises in oil prices could pose a threat to the region's economies, including the Philippines. *(See story on Page A6.)*

"The decline in US crude oil inventories has been a key driver of oil prices," said David Moore, commodity strate-

OIL HITS/ A6

MANILA NORTH CEMETERY
Former President Estrada waves to supporters shortly after visiting the tomb of his bosom friend, Fernando Poe Jr., at the Manila North Cemetery on Wednesday night. Last night he visited the grave of his father at San Juan Cemetery. RAFFY LERMA

LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI
President Arroyo holds a candle before the tomb of her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, on Thursday. LYN RILLON

Kin of blast victims plan to meet, swap stories

By DJ Yap and Julie M. Aurelio

IF THE BEREAVED FAMILIES SHOULD meet, will it be a sharing of sorrow or a silent communion?

Carlo Cruz does not know for sure. But in this season of remembering the departed, he is nursing a wish to connect with others like himself who lost loved ones in the explosion at Glorietta 2 on Oct. 19.

"What will I say to them? I don't know. I have no words. I don't have any assurances," said Carlo, 31, whose wife Maria Celeste ("Leslie") was among the 11 persons killed in the explosion.

"All I know is that we're in this together. We're all tied together by this incident," he said.

Marie de Jesus, who lost her husband Jose Allen, has likewise thought of touching base with the other grieving families.

"I want to meet them. Maybe we can talk about our experience, and about our plans for the future," said the 38-year-old mother of three.

Jeanette de Gracia has been occupied with the arrangements for her daughter Jee Ann's funeral, but she wants to meet and talk with the other families, 'especially those of Jee Ann's two friends who also died in the blast—Maureen de Leon and Niño Vidamo.

"I want us to get together. I wish for justice for us, and government assistance if indeed negligence is the cause of the explosion," Jeanette said, adding:

"We need to talk, all of us who are bereaved. We want a place where we can light candles, where we can offer flowers."

For Carlo Cruz, any way to touch base—say through e-mail or the phone—will do.

"This is a very difficult time for all of us. We're going through the same thing, yet I can't imagine what it must be like for them," he said.

Then he asked the INQUIRER: "How are they?"

From interviews, they are finding

KIN OF/ A6

No neighbors at Erap marble tomb in Tanay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WAY JOSEPH ESTRADA TELLS IT, he has found the perfect place to spend eternity—his sprawling vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, which he described as being "nearest to heaven."

During his three-year detention at the 15-hectare property, the ousted President and pardoned plunderer made ready for his exit from this world. The result of his efforts is a marble tomb the color of earth, standing on a spot that he himself selected.

NO NEIGHBORS/ A4

Barangay justice eases court load

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CASE THAT REACHED Abu Sama Kasan was similar to many minor domestic problems that invariably reach the courts, clogging dockets, delaying the resolution of cases and, worse, keeping those awaiting final decisions in jail for prolonged periods.

A woman had complained to officials of Barangay Tamontaka in Maguindanao that her estranged husband had not provided child support since their separation.

Kasan, the barangay *kagawad*, heard the two sides and gave them two months to settle their personal issues, which they did without incurring the usual high cost of litigation if it was brought to court.

Increasingly, paralegal volun-

BARANGAY/ A15

Magistrates on buses hear cases of poor litigants

By Margaux C. Ortiz

(Last of three parts)

-TEAM *Report*
The Activist Court
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS, Ernest Cabuang finally got his just due from four neighborhood thugs who beat him up and stole P200 from him on his way home to celebrate Christmas with his wife in 2005.

A stay-in electrician at a shop in Guiguinto, Bulacan, he had filed a case of robbery with physical injuries against the men, spending precious hours and losing money each time a hearing was scheduled in the municipal court of Taytay, Rizal, where he lived.

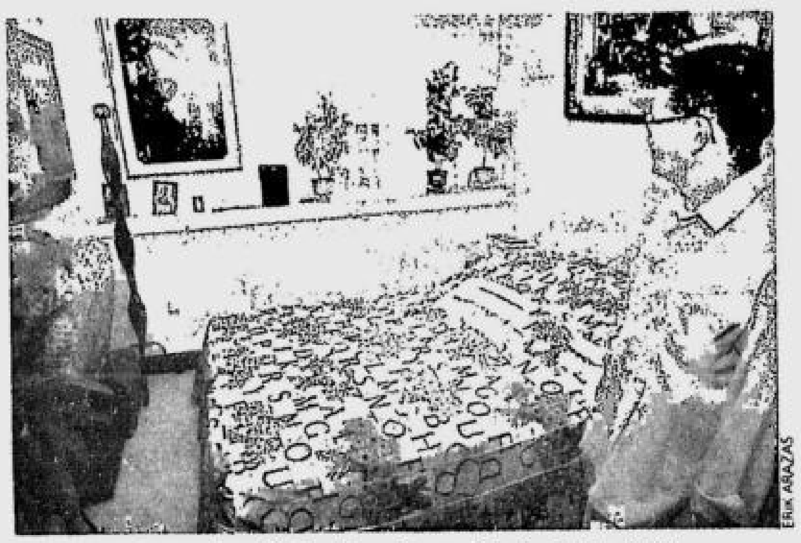
"The case had been dragging on for so long," says Cabuang. He had been shelling out the little he earned to pursue the case until he heard of a Supreme Court program called "Justice on Wheels" (JOW).

The high tribunal had launched the program in 2004 to speed up the resolution of cases, especially those involving impoverished litigants, and in the process address the criticism of "justice delayed, justice denied" with the serious backlog of court cases.

"The municipal judge of Taytay referred our case to a mediator, who helped us understand that our case could take years to resolve if I did not try to talk and settle things with the men who beat me," Cabuang explains.

The proceedings were held in a special vehicle—one of three

MAGISTRATES/ A15



FILE photo shows the cell of ex-Rep. Romeo Jalosjos in the NBP maximum security unit. At right is former NBP Supt. Gregorio Agalo-os. ERIK ARAZAS

Muntinlupa a paradise compared to cramped city jails

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF NOT FOR THE HEAVY IRON grills, this crowded nine-hectare prison complex could pass off as a small village run by filthy rich residents.

At the center of the New Bilibid Prisons' maximum security compound is an "International Park" with food stalls, an electronic repair shop, a mini-lumber store and little nipa huts beckoning to its more than 11,000 inmates during their most humdrum hours.

A playground in a nearby mini-park, which has also become the perfect spot for tattoo artists, also accommodates children who visit their fathers doing time.

On another corner stands a coffee shop and bakery. Inmates refer to it as their "Starbucks," offering early risers a quick caffeine fix, freshly baked *pan de sal*, pan de coco, squash and cheese bread, and hot dog and hamburger buns for P2 to P3 each.

Prisoners who crave an adrenaline rush can play tennis on a nice shell court, courtesy of

MUNTINLUPA/ A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/11/01/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

KAHIT SINO I-APPOINT MAY KO-KONTRA!

EZ2

7 21

SIX DIGIT

2 1 0 4 4 5

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

9 4 9 | 8 2 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

17 20 26 28 41 42

₱57,171,898.80

Older cons owe Erap

AFTER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO cited convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada's age as a factor in pardoning the deposed president, the Department of Justice has begun working for the release of prisoners 70 years and older.

The DOJ is also set to release prisoners who were 15 years old and younger when they committed the crimes that landed them in jail.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera has directed the Bureau of Corrections to transmit to the Board of Pardons and Parole the records of those inmates "to effect their immediate release from confinement."

Estrada, 70, was pardoned by Ms Arroyo late last month, after the Sandiganbayan convicted him of plunder in September.

His pardon spawned calls for freedom for other inmates in their 70s. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Comelec appointee opposed

Lacson says new commissioner has links to 'Garci'

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S NEW MUSlim appointee to the Commission on Elections is "a known Garci protege and operator," according to opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who said he would oppose Moslemen Macarambon's appointment in the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Lacson claimed to have "reliable information" that Virgilio Garcillano, the former election commissioner who figured in the 2004 "Hello Garci" poll fraud scandal, had recommended Macarambon to the President.

The appointment of Macarambon, 66, a regional trial court judge in the President's second hometown of Iligan City, was something of a surprise as his name was not in the shortlist that Malacañang earlier sent to the Comelec.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday Macarambon's appointment was sent to the Comelec only last Wednesday.

Macarambon is from Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur, the province that is most associated with vote-padding during elections.

Benasing Macarambon, the former Lanao del Sur congressman who is not a relation, said the new Comelec commissioner had an "unblemished reputation" and was much respected in the province.

"He is a non-politician and basically a good and just man," the former congressman said.

The judge, who has been in the government service for 30 years, said he was "well-prepared to tackle the job at the Comelec."

"With my vast experience as a regional trial court judge handling election cases, I believe that I can help in the early disposition of cases at the Comelec," he said.

Macarambon's appointment was welcomed in Iligan City where he has served as the regular presiding judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 4 since 2003. He was appointed to the position by Ms Arroyo.

Alongan Mangorsi, director of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension at Mindandao State University-IIT, described Macarambon as a "simple, straightforward, time-conscious guy."

Macarambon has been a judge since 1989 presiding over several RTC branches in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Marawi City, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City.

In 1997, he was cited as one of the 10 outstanding RTC judges by the Philippine Trial Lawyers Association.

A law graduate of Manuel L. Quezon University and University of the East, Macarambon worked for various government agencies and private firms, including stints as executive assistant in the office of former Sen. Mamintal Tamano and at the Senate Election Tribunal from 1986 to 1988.

He was a managing partner at the Tamano and Associates law office from 1986 to 1988.

Macarambon also taught political law at the MSU College of Law Extension in Iligan City and was known among his students as an advocate for fairness and equity.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita shrugged off reports that some opposition senators were planning to block Macarambon's appointment at the CA, saying that this was to be expected.

"His appointment is just really a good representation for our Muslim brothers," he said.

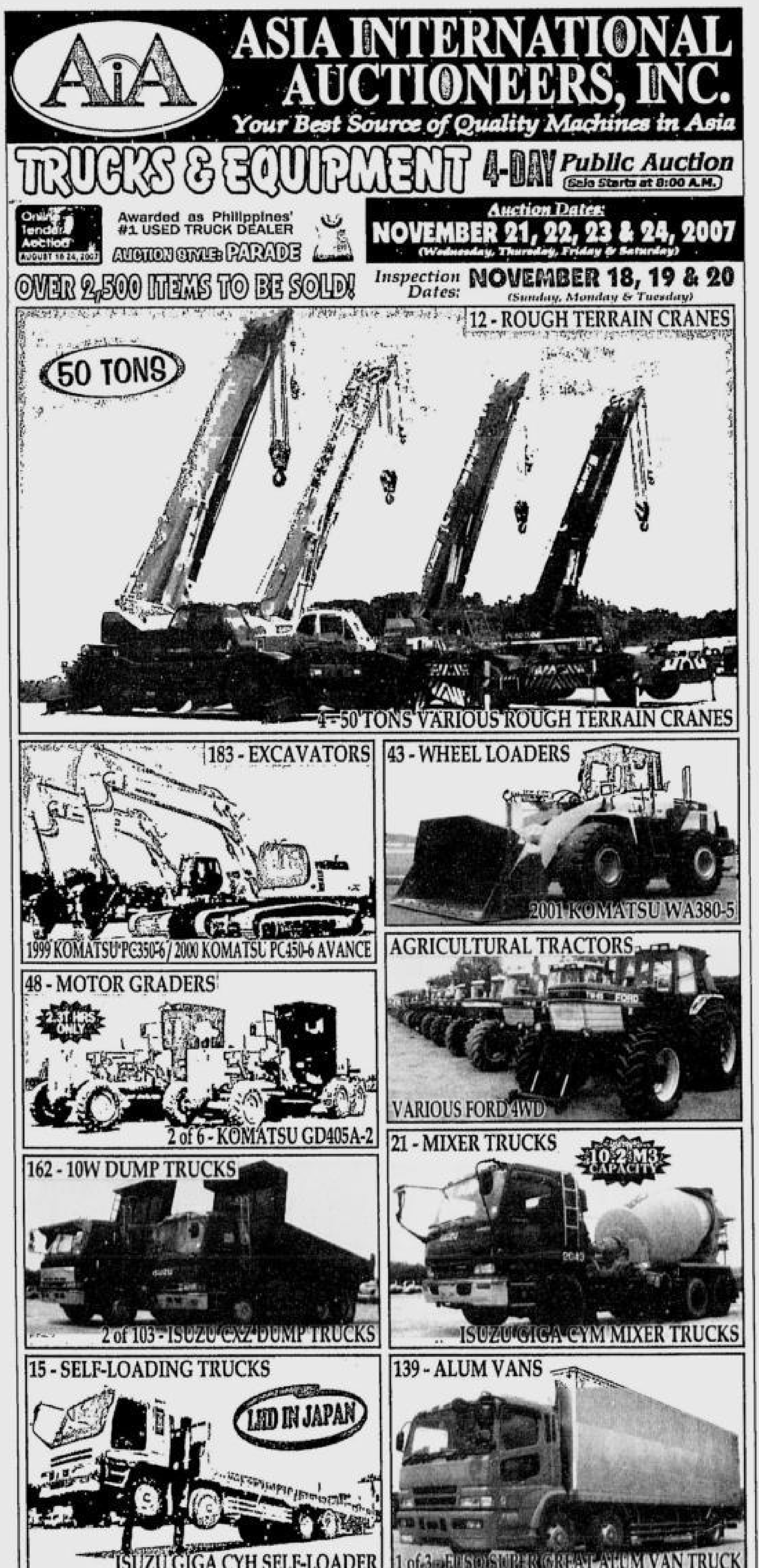
Lacson, who is said to be gunning for the presidency in 2010, said he would block Macarambon's appointment by asking other CA members to reject the appointment or by invoking Section 20 of the CA rules which allows any CA member to suspend action on any appointment.

Macarambon's appointment only leaves three more seats to fill at the Comelec.

The head of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) Persida Acosta tops the shortlist of nominees that the Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) plans to recommend to Malacañang. .

PPCRV chair Henrietta de Villa said Acosta was being considered because of her track record at PAO.

De Villa said the most important consideration was unassailable integrity. */Dona Pazzibugan, Metro Manila; Rex G. Ortega and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao, with a report from Arlyn de la Cruz*


ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY Public Auction (Sale Starts at 8:00 A.M.)
Awarded as Philippines' #1 USED TRUCK DEALER
AUCTION STYLE: PARADE
Auction Dates: NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2007 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
OVER 2,500 ITEMS TO BE SOLD!
Inspection Dates: NOVEMBER 18, 19 & 20 (Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)
12 - ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES
50 TONS
4 - 50 TONS VARIOUS ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES
183 - EXCAVATORS
1999 KOMATSU PC350-6 / 2000 KOMATSU PC450-6 AVANCE
43 - WHEEL LOADERS
2001 KOMATSU WA380-5
48 - MOTOR GRADERS
2 of 6 - KOMATSU GD405A-2
AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS
VARIOUS FORD 4WD
162 - 10W DUMP TRUCKS
2 of 103 - ISUZU CXZ DUMP TRUCKS
21 - MIXER TRUCKS
10.2 M3 CAPACITY
ISUZU GIGA CYM MIXER TRUCKS
15 - SELF-LOADING TRUCKS
LHD IN JAPAN
ISUZU GIGA CYH SELF-LOADER
139 - ALUM VANS
1 of 3 - FUSO SUPER GREAT ALUM VAN TRUCK
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel.: +6347-252-3333 Fax: +6347-252-6840 / 252-1441 E-mail: aiainc@subictel.com
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp (02) 858-8888

Anger over Estrada pardon growing – in cyberspace

By TJ Burgonio

IT IS HARDLY VISIBLE IN THE streets, but the outrage over President Macapagal-Arroyo's pardon of convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada is increasingly growing in cyberspace.

Indignation is spreading in e-mail exchanges, letters to online papers, blogs and chatrooms.

A call for a protest rally at Philippine consulates abroad is being organized online.

The outrage is directed not only at Ms Arroyo's hasty grant of executive clemency but also at Estrada's quick acceptance of it without any expression of guilt or remorse.

"The issue today is not Erap's guilt or innocence," said Francisco Nemenzo, former president of the University of the Philippines, in an e-mail to the national council of Laban ng Masa.

"The Sandiganbayan decision did not and could not have resolved it because the credibility of this institution as a pillar of justice is itself in grave doubt," he said. "The issue is the meaning of his pardon by a bogus President."

Nemenzo said that Estrada could have "emerged a hero" had he stuck to his stand against a pardon, or could have at least retained a measure of sympathy had he accepted it "just to be with his ailing mother."

"Unfortunately, he went overboard in expressing his gratitude to GMA, to the extent of helping a rotten regime survive the current crisis. He echoed her hypocritical call for national unity and even pledged support for her nebulous antipoverty program," he said.

The President pardoned Estrada on Oct. 26 in what both camps claimed was a step toward national reconciliation, weeks after the ousted leader was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan.

Following Ms Arroyo's move, Estrada distanced himself from opposition calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation sparked by a series of corruption scandals, including allegations of overpricing and kickbacks in a broadband deal with China and payoffs to politicians purportedly to stave off another impeachment attempt.

Estrada was ousted in January 2001 in a People Power revolt after a failed impeachment trial on corruption charges.

In an e-mailed statement to newspapers and friends, the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture slammed the pardon as "cheap grace."

Vicente Romano, who ran an online protest against corruption in the Estrada administration, said: "I don't think you will see people go out in the street on their own. I don't think it will be expressed in rallies; it will be in writing."

The sudden shift in mood from indifference to outrage has been particularly "discernible" among the middle class and the elite, Romano said.

"Now that the alignment is clear, and Estrada's camp is with GMA, these people are more willing to come out. What needs to happen is a build-up of activities," he said.

Romano himself is organizing synchronized protests on Ayala Avenue in Makati City and at all Philippine consulates abroad on Friday next week through his network of electronic warriors or (e-Mandirigma).

Also yesterday, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said he was planning to seek an audience with President Arroyo to personally thank her for the pardon granted to his father.

"Because my grandmother was (sic) in real critical condition, Mrs. Arroyo probably thought that my dad should be at the bedside of my grandmother. And in fact I believe that GMA knows that Erap did not steal money from the government," Estrada said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOIN NA!

SUPER TOON. The Super Inggo 1.5 comic strip will appear in the Junior Inquirer with an interactive content and a promo for readers, after a contract-signing on Wednesday between the Philippine Daily Inquirer and ABS-CBN. In photo are, seated from left, Jocel Adorable, PDI AVP for marketing; actors Jarius Aquino and Kathryn Bernardo; Makisig Morales, star of "Super Inggo," and Raymund Dizon of ABS-CBN. Standing are, from left, Ruth Navarra, Junior Inquirer; Lorie Dionisio and Ferry Trinidad, ABS-CBN; Grace Leung, Junior Inquirer; Jenny Rockwell, PDI account executive; Liz Mañola, Junior Inquirer; Chito San Mateo, PDI marketing officer, and Erwin Aurelia and Cheryl Gatan, ABS-CBN.

PHOTO BY EUGENE ARANETA

Global warming threatens coral reefs, says expert

By TJ Burgonio

THE CORALS OFF LUZON'S western coast have been hit by bleaching, which over time could kill them, a marine biologist warned yesterday.

And the bleaching could recur over the coming years because of global warming, said Edgardo Gomez, professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (MSI).

"There was bleaching because of the high temperatures and high light intensity," Gomez said in an interview. "It's global warming. That's the effect. It's becoming more frequent."

The warm temperatures in the South China Sea in June and July caused the corals to bleach in the waters off Pangasinan in northern Luzon and Palawan and Batangas in Southern Tagalog, he said.

During those months, the sea temperature reached 33 degrees Centigrade, bleaching the corals white. An extended period of high temperatures could kill the corals, Gomez said.

"This (bleaching) may recur every year because of global warming. The seas are getting warmer. Global warming is a real thing," he said.

Gomez also chairs the Southeast Asian Center of Excellence at MSI, one of several think tanks established by the Coral Reef Targeted Research and Capacity Building for Management (CRTR) Program to do further research on coral reefs.

The CRTR program is a partnership among the Global Environment Facility, World Bank, University of Queensland, US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and 40 other institutes.

But unlike the coral bleaching that occurred in the late 1990s, the recent incident was mild, according to Gomez.

"It was sort of like very patchy. Certain species bleached, while others did not," Gomez said during a PowerPoint presentation of his paper titled "An Overview of Coral Reefs."

Gomez made the presentation during an open forum on CRTR at the MSI in UP Diliman.

In 1997 and 1998, massive bleaching hit the coral reefs in Masinloc, Zambales; Bolinao, Pangasinan; Bacuit Bay, El Nido and Coron islands in Palawan, and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

'Atong' insists on trip

CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG, ON probation on plunder charges, has again asked the Sandiganbayan for a seven-day pass to travel to Cambodia where a lottery consultancy awaits him.

Before the antigraft court closed for the long weekend on Wednesday, Ang filed a petition asking its Special Division to resolve the motion for reconsideration he filed on Sept. 12 seeking a reversal of the ruling barring him from making the Cambodia trip.

Ang, through lawyer Ruth Castelo, said the only reason he wanted the job was to be able to settle the debts he incurred to pay the P25-million civil liability the court imposed on him after he pled guilty to a lesser offense in the plunder case in which he was a coaccused with deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Ang said his creditors were preparing lawsuits against him for his failure to pay them since the court sentenced him to six years for indirect bribery and ordered him to pay the government P25 million in March.

The court, however, advised Ang not to participate in any form of numbers games when it placed him on probation.

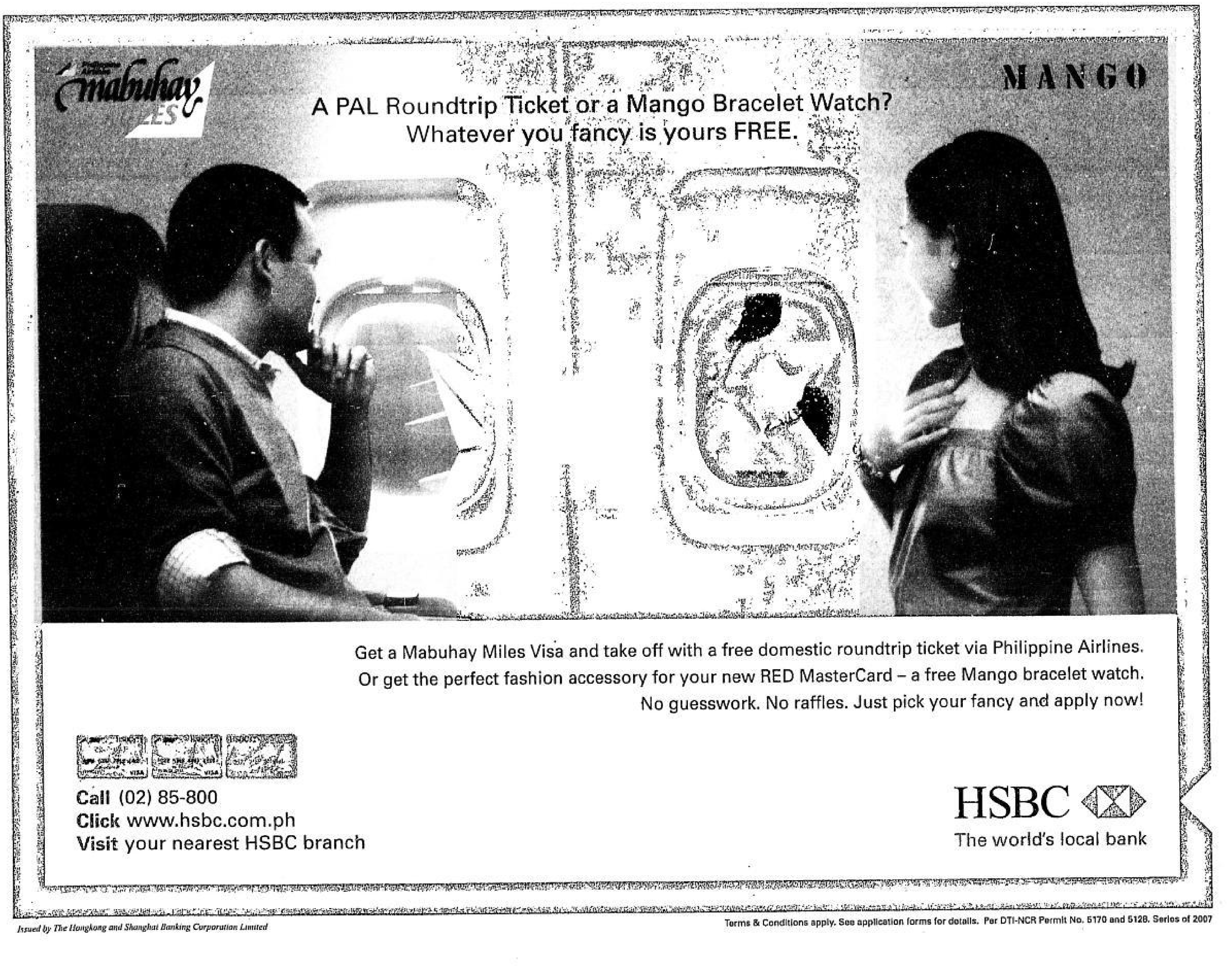
Jocelyn R. Uy

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT

TRENTA FIESTA!
Home building for 30 Years

She came. She shopped. She's going home with a BMW.
Congratulations to Ms. Aludy Grace Diaz of Pasay City, winner of a BMW 316i M/T in the Trenta Fiesta 30th Anniversary Raffle!

WILCON DEPOT WILCON SUPPLY
Build anything. We have everything.
Autohaus BMW
TRENTA FIESTA RAFFLE PROMO
PANASONIC PERSONAL REFRIGERATORS
PANASONIC COLOR TV
MARFLEX MICROWAVE OVEN


mabuhay MILES

MANGO

A PAL Roundtrip Ticket or a Mango Bracelet Watch?
Whatever you fancy is yours FREE.

Get a Mabuhay Miles Visa and take off with a free domestic roundtrip ticket via Philippine Airlines.
Or get the perfect fashion accessory for your new RED MasterCard – a free Mango bracelet watch.
No guesswork. No raffles. Just pick your fancy and apply now!

Call (02) 85-800
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest HSBC branch

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Terms & Conditions apply. See application forms for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5170 and 5128, Series of 2007

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

No neighbors at Erap's marble tomb

From page A1

"I have already prepared my final resting place to spare my family and relatives arguments about where I should be buried," Estrada yesterday told the INQUIRER on the phone.

While other famous personalities aspire to be laid to rest in Libingan ng mga Bayani—the cemetery of heroes—or other historic sites, Citizen Erap, 70, wants a place of his own.

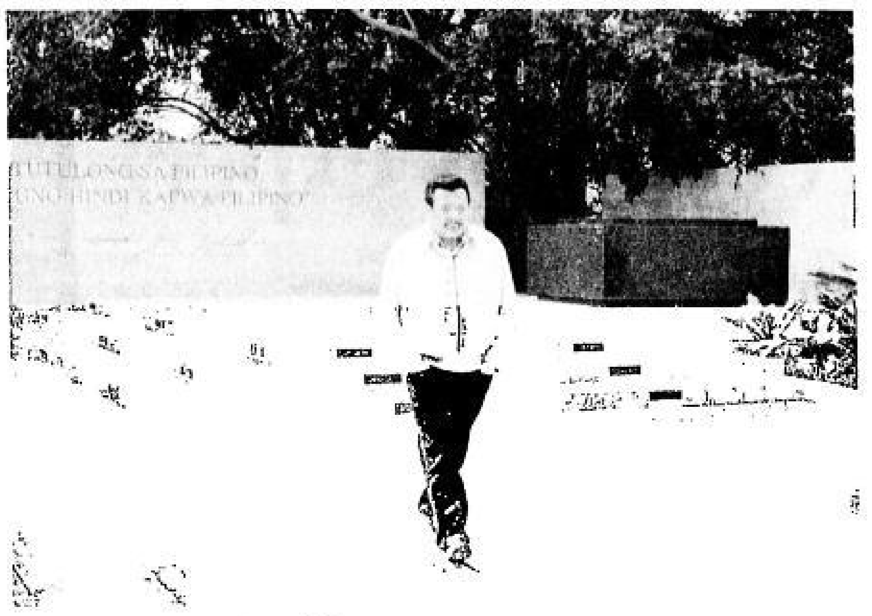
He has not changed his mind even now that he is back at his residence on Polk Street, Greenhills, in the family bailiwick of San Juan City.

"I want to be in a solemn place where one can meditate. *Ayaw ko ng kapitbahay* (I don't want any neighbors)," he said with a chuckle.

Surrounded by trees

Completed early last year, Estrada's tomb is surrounded by a profusion of trees. It stands against a bleached wall bearing his carved likeness and a line from a speech that he delivered as a senator, in protest of the then US military bases in Pampanga and Zambales.

The line, engraved in gold letters, reads: *"Walang tutulong sa Pilipino kung hindi kapwa Pilipino* (No one will help the Filipino except his fellow Filipino)."


FORMER President Joseph Estrada walks away from his future tomb inside his estate in Tanay, Rizal. Photo was taken on the day he was granted a full pardon by President Macapagal-Arroyo.
JAY JAVELOSA/CONTRIBUTOR

"I chose that line because I want Filipinos to remember that we should all be self-supporting, and that we should learn to rely on our own," said the man who won the 1998 presidential election with the slogan "Erap *para sa mahirap* (for the poor)."

Answered prayers

Next to the tomb shaded by a *balete* tree is a rock where, by his account, Estrada spent many moments in prayer as an obscure bit player in the movies, a certified cinema idol, and eventually as a mayor, senator, vice president, president—and a prisoner.

"That is the place where God heard all my prayers. I prayed in the past that I become a movie star, and I did. I also prayed hard to become a mayor, and I did ... The only thing I did not pray for was to end up a prisoner," Estrada said, still chuckling.

On Oct. 26, the convicted plunderer walked out of his vacation estate a free man, after accepting executive clemency from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The move surprised many, including a number of his associates, who saw in it a capitulation to the woman whom he had accused of "unconstitutionally" taking his place after he was unseated from power by a military-backed uprising in January 2001. *(See related story on Page A2.)*

Peace and comfort

For more than five decades, the estate where his tomb now stands has given him peace and comfort, Estrada said.

But having regained his freedom after undergoing a corruption trial in a special court of the Sandiganbayan for six years—and being found guilty of two counts of plunder and sentenced to a lifetime prison term—he is not about to frequent his Tanay digs just yet.

He plans to return to his rest house sometime next week, however, to collect the personal belongings that had accumulated there in his three-year detention.

An aide and six helpers have been assigned to oversee operations at the estate—which includes, among other things, a farm and a private museum of his memorabilia from his days as a movie icon and political kingpin—and to keep his gravesite spic-and-span.

"Of course, I haven't changed my mind," Estrada declared. "Even if I am now free, I still want to be buried there in Tanay, which is the highest point of Rizal and nearest to heaven."

Corrections

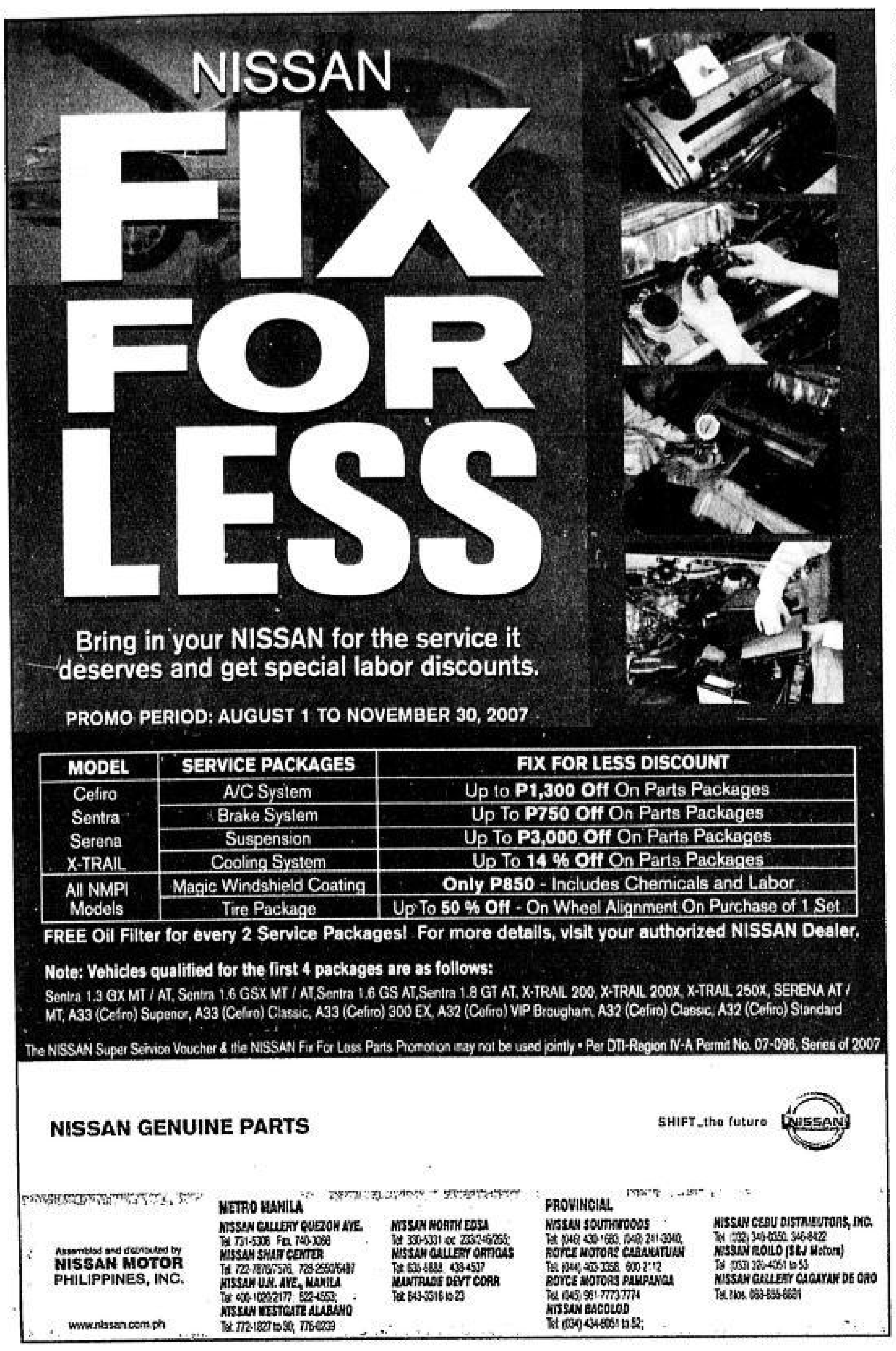
IN THE OCT. 28 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Erap's first night at No. 1 Polk Street"—misstated the name of a former finance secretary. The former finance secretary is Jose Pardo—not Jose Pardo de Tavera.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 1 ISSUE, a front-page article misspelled the surname of the spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. The CBCP spokesperson is Msgr. Pedro Quitorio—not Quitoria.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Page A2 caption misstated the subspecies to which the tiger in the photograph belongs. In the photo was a Bengal—not Belgian—tiger.


NISSAN
FIX FOR LESS

Bring in your NISSAN for the service it deserves and get special labor discounts.

PROMO PERIOD: AUGUST 1 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2007

MODEL	SERVICE PACKAGES	FIX FOR LESS DISCOUNT
Cefiro Sentra Serena X-TRAIL	A/C System	Up to **P1,300 Off** On Parts Packages
	Brake System	Up To **P750 Off** On Parts Packages
	Suspension	Up To **P3,000 Off** On Parts Packages
	Cooling System	Up To **14 % Off** On Parts Packages
All NMPI Models	Magic Windshield Coating	**Only P850** - Includes Chemicals and Labor
	Tire Package	Up To **50 % Off** - On Wheel Alignment On Purchase of 1 Set

FREE Oil Filter for every 2 Service Packages! For more details, visit your authorized NISSAN Dealer.

Note: Vehicles qualified for the first 4 packages are as follows:
Sentra 1.3 GX MT / AT, Sentra 1.6 GSX MT / AT, Sentra 1.6 GS AT, Sentra 1.8 GT AT, X-TRAIL 200, X-TRAIL 200X, X-TRAIL 250X, SERENA AT / MT, A33 (Cefiro) Superior, A33 (Cefiro) Classic, A33 (Cefiro) 300 EX, A32 (Cefiro) VIP Brougham, A32 (Cefiro) Classic, A32 (Cefiro) Standard

The NISSAN Super Service Voucher & the NISSAN Fix For Less Parts Promotion may not be used jointly • Per DTI-Region IV-A Permit No. 07-096, Series of 2007

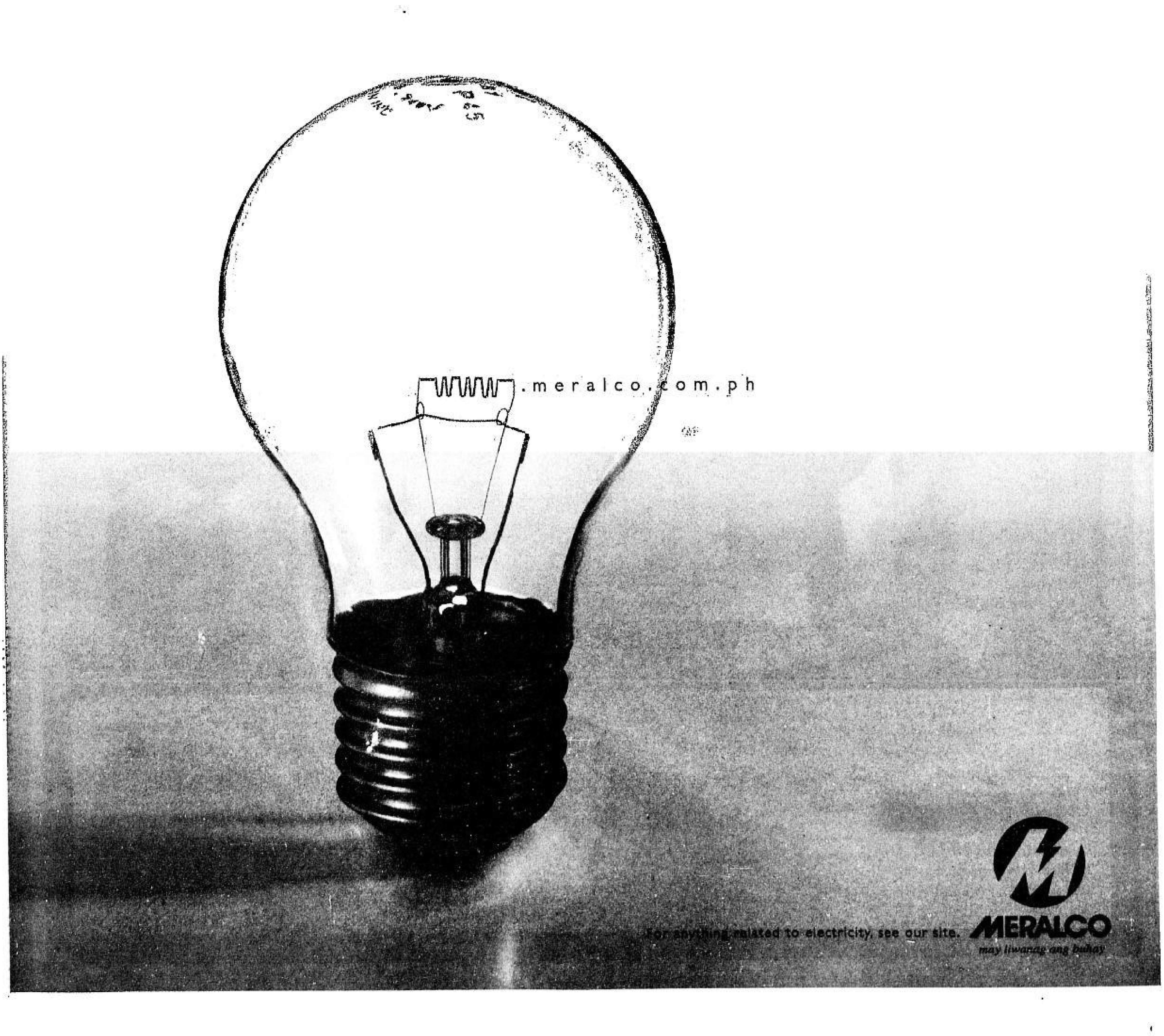
NISSAN GENUINE PARTS

SHIFT_the future NISSAN

Assembled and distributed by
NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.
www.nissan.com.ph

METRO MANILA
NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVE.
Tel. 731-5306 Fax. 740-3068
NISSAN SHAW CENTER
Tel. 722-7876/7576, 725-2550/5487
NISSAN U.N. AVE., MANILA
Tel. 400-1020/2177, 522-4553;
NISSAN WESTGATE ALABANG
Tel. 772-1827 to 30, 776-0339
NISSAN NORTH EDSA
Tel. 330-5331 loc. 233/245/255;
NISSAN GALLERY ORTIGAS
Tel. 635-6888, 438-4537
MANTRADE DEVT CORP.
Tel. 843-3016 to 23

PROVINCIAL
NISSAN SOUTHWOODS
Tel. (049) 430-1683, (049) 241-3040;
ROYCE MOTORS CABANATUAN
Tel. (044) 463-3356, 600 2112
ROYCE MOTORS PAMPANGA
Tel. (045) 961-7773/7774
NISSAN BACOLOD
Tel. (034) 434-8061 to 62;
NISSAN CEBU DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
Tel. (032) 346-0350, 346-8422
NISSAN ILOILO (S&J Motors)
Tel. (033) 320-4061 to 63
NISSAN GALLERY CAGAYAN DE ORO
Tel. Nos. 088-856-6601


.meralco.com.ph
For anything related to electricity, see our site.
MERALCO
may liwanag ang buhay

New nuncio lands in RP

ARCHBISHOP EDWARD JOSEPH Adams, newly appointed papal nuncio of the Holy See to the Philippines, arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to a red carpet welcome led by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

Adams replaces Archbishop Fernando Filoni, who has assumed the third highest position in the Vatican, the Substitute for the General Affairs of the Secretariat State.

An American born in Philadelphia, the 63-year-old archbishop studied for the diplomatic service at the Vatican in 1976, and has since served in several countries, including Denmark, the Czech Republic, Kenya, Rwanda, Honduras and Ireland.

His assignment to the Philippines follows a five-year stint as the Vatican's ambassador to Zimbabwe. Adams is the 15th apostolic delegate to the Philippines.

Tarra Quismundo

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 2, 2007
All Souls Day

1st Reading: Wis 3:1-9
2nd Reading: Rom 6:3-9
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"The King will say to those on his right: 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.'

"Then the good people will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you: when-ever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left: 'Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

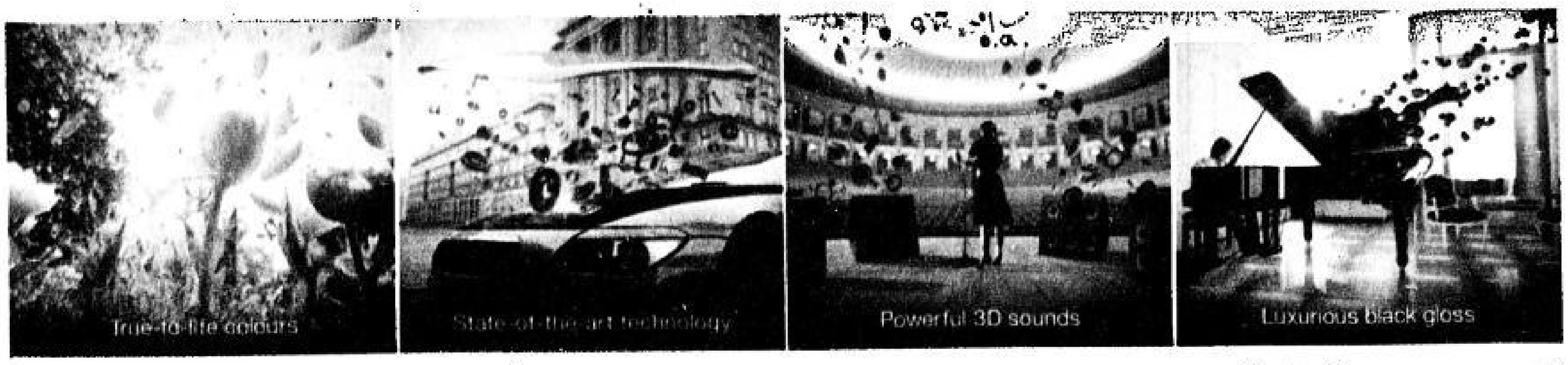
"They, too, will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?' The King will answer them: 'Truly, I say to you: whatever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.'

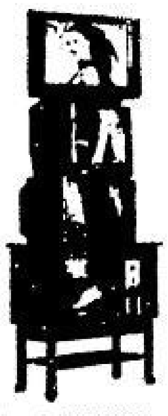
"And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life."

Commentary

Our souls live in hope and we believe that one day we will shine like sparks that run in the stubble and that it is the just who will one day govern and rule. And more importantly, if we trust in God we will penetrate the truth and live with God in love because of God's mercy. We have been baptized into the dying and rising of Jesus and our resurrections have begun. Our lives are a practice for the fullness of glory with God. This is the foundation of our religion and all our lives' practice and prayer. We will all die, but we stake our lives on the hope that the Son of Man will come in glory to judge each person and all the nations and that there will be life everlasting. And today we pray for all those who have gone before us in faith. And we pray that they who know more than we do now of God's presence will remember us before God, too.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)


True-to-life colours
State-of-the-art technology
Powerful 3D sounds
Luxurious black gloss


SlimFit™ TV Z57
TV Reborn

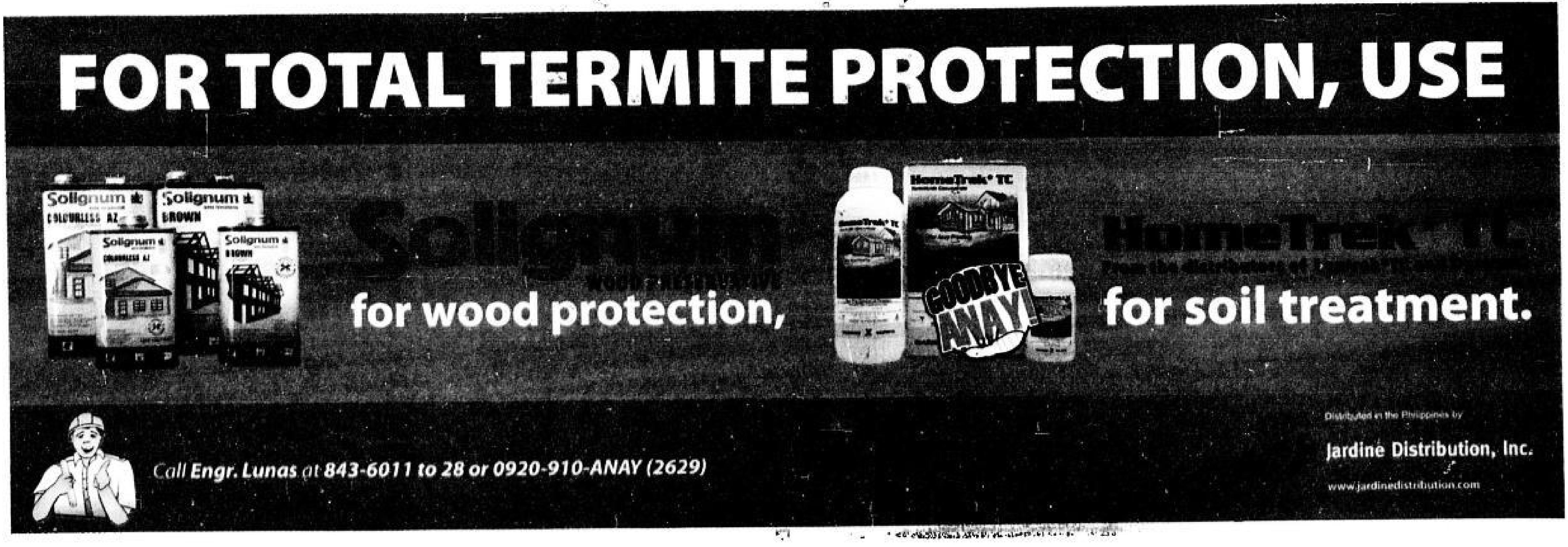
imagine TV Reborn to give you the luxury of space

Imagine from life's greatest inspirations, comes the impressive addition to the SlimFit™ series. A TV reborn from shades of brilliant flower petals, precision engineering in all its glorious intricacies, the grand sounds of a music hall and the glossy finish of a grand piano. The world's first TV made of revolutionary compact Cathode Ray Tube components slimmer than your usual CRT televisions, the SlimFit™ TV Z57 fits into any corner, and your stylish life beautifully. Affordability has not seen such luxurious design, and technology has never been so well-paired with aesthetics. We don't see it as any mere TV set, and you won't either. With SlimFit™ TV Z57, it's not that hard to imagine.

SAMSUNG

Samsung Customer Contact Center: **TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG** for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.
www.samsung.com/ph

Available in 21" model


FOR TOTAL TERMITE PROTECTION, USE
Solignum wood preservative for wood protection,
HomeTrek® TC for soil treatment.
GOODBYE ANAY!
Call Engr. Lunas at 843-6011 to 28 or 0920-910-ANAY (2629)
Distributed in the Philippines by
Jardine Distribution, Inc.
www.jardinedistribution.com

Soaring oil prices a long-term threat to Asia, says ADB

TOKYO—RISING INFLATION in emerging countries in Asia is still manageable but further rises in oil prices would pose a long-term threat to the region's economies, a senior Asian Development Bank official yesterday warned.

"Obviously, the increase in oil prices is a big challenge," Jong-Wha Lee, head of the ADB's Regional Economic Integration told Reuters in an interview.

Oil prices scaled record highs above $96 a barrel on Thursday, while China unexpectedly raised domestic gasoline and diesel prices by 10 percent, the first increase in 17 months.

According to an ADB estimate, a $10 rise in oil prices would slash growth rates for emerging Asian countries, big importers of oil, by 0.6 percentage point.

But Lee said the impact of rising oil prices on economic growth in emerging Asian countries had been limited so far thanks to recent efforts to promote energy efficiency and other steps to cope with rising energy prices.

"The question is inflation," Lee said, noting China's monthly inflation rate of roughly 7 percent is "very high."

"Inflation rate is still manageable but if oil prices keep rising, it will clearly be a long-term threat and risk, not just for inflation but also for the real economy," he added.

Lee said there was no need to exaggerate such risk and added that the ADB still expected the economic growth of Asia's emerging economies to remain robust this year and next.

The Manila-based multilateral agency forecast in September that Asia's developing economies, the fastest growing nations in the world, would expand 8.3 percent this year and 8.2 percent in 2008. *Reuters*

Oil hits record $96/barrel

From page A1

gist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery rose to as high as US$96.24 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midafternoon in Singapore before dropping to US$95.59 a barrel.

Crude prices have reached inflation-adjusted highs set in early 1980. Depending on how the adjustment is calculated, US$38 a barrel then would be worth US$96-$101 or more today.

Oil prices have surged more than 50 percent since the start of the year, and have risen about 18 percent in the past month alone on winter supply worries, speculative buying and a succession of record lows in the US dollar.

"We are stepping into an unknown area. Nobody wants to sell (given the fear of a) further rise," broker Ken Hasegawa of Fimat Japan told Dow Jones Newswires.

Fall of oil supplies

In its weekly inventory report, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said oil supplies fell by 3.9 million barrels last week. Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires, on average, had expected an increase of 100,000 barrels.

"The US inventory report has reaffirmed the belief that market conditions are tightening and oil prices are ratcheting up higher on that basis," Moore said.

Much of that decline in inventories was due to a big drop in crude supplies at a closely watched oil terminal in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Cushing oil supplies have been under pressure in recent months due to differences in the price between front-month oil contracts and those for delivery in future months. This price difference, or spread, has given storage tank owners a financial incentive to sell their oil, rather than hold it in inventory.

Analysts have also blamed falling Cushing supplies, in part, for the rally in which oil prices have jumped 35 percent since August.

The EIA also reported that refinery activity fell by 0.9 percentage point last week to 86.2 percent of capacity. Analysts had expected an increase of 0.5 percentage point.

Supplies of gasoline rose last week by 1.3 million barrels. Analysts expected a 400,000-barrel decrease.

And inventories of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel fuel, rose by only 800,000 barrels. Analysts had expected a 1-million barrel decrease.

Rate cut; GDP growth

The US Federal Reserve's move to cut interest rates by a quarter point also supported prices. Interest rate cuts generally support oil prices because they tend to send the US dollar downward; the dollar is already at multiple-decade lows against major currencies.

The Fed's second interest rate cut to stave off fears of inflation has added liquidity to financial markets, some of which has been plowed into oil futures because they offer a hedge against a weak dollar.

Even so, the economy of the world's biggest energy consumer has shown surprising resilience to high oil prices, growing at a brisk clip in the third quarter.

US gross domestic product (GDP) expanded at a 3.9-percent annual rate last quarter, the quickest pace since the first quarter of 2006. Latest data also showed private employers also added 106,000 jobs in October, beating economists' forecast of 60,000 new jobs.

No shortage, says Opec

Despite record oil prices, Opec turned a deaf ear to calls for an increase in oil production.

"The question is if there is any shortage in the supply. There is no . . . shortage in crude oil," Qatar Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah told reporters in Tokyo on Thursday.

"It's market-driven and the market is out of our control," he said, reiterating comments made earlier this week.

For its part, Iran's acting oil minister said the Opec was not expected to discuss raising output at informal talks in Riyadh in mid-November.

"I doubt that because there is enough oil in the market . . . Iran does not see a need for an output increase," Iran's Gholamhossein Nozari told Reuters, when asked if the Opec would discuss increasing production in the Saudi capital.

Geopoliticals factors are likewise boosting prospects of an oil price of US$100 per barrel.

Iran warned the United States on Wednesday it would find itself in a "quagmire deeper than Iraq" if it attacked the Islamic state. Russia, however, has intensified efforts for a diplomatic solution to Tehran's nuclear row with the West.

"It's just a matter of time . . . Everything you see now are bullish factors, so there is no reason for you to sell at the moment," Fimat Japan's Hasegawa said. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

Kin of blast victims plan to meet, swap stories

From page A1

ways to cope with their profound loss and to get on with living.

Amado Petras, a born-again pastor, is trying to ensure the education of his two granddaughters—Rica Mae, 9, and Elizabeth, 4—"even with their father gone."

Since laying his son Ricardo ("Ricky") to rest at Heritage Park in Taguig City, the father has been sleeping in his son's bed and wearing his son's clothes.

"I miss his presence so much," said Amado, 56. "If he shows himself to me, I will hug him tight and say, 'I love you, *anak*.'"

No visit to his grave

In these days of remembering, neither flowers nor lighted candles will mark Jose Allen's grave at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City, said Marie de Jesus.

She said her family believed in the superstition that visiting the departed within 40 days of their death could bring misfortune to those left behind.

But more than that, Marie said, she could not stand the atmosphere of death with the memory of her husband's passing so fresh: "I don't want to remember anymore.

"I see traces of him everywhere. When I'm in the house, I see his clothes, his slippers. When I prepare the table, when we're eating, all I can think of is, he's not here."

There will just be a novena with her family and neighbors, Marie said. They will light candles in the apartment, and say prayers for Jose Allen's soul.

In Carlo's case, the reality of Leslie's passing "hasn't sunk in yet."

"It's been what, two-and-a-half weeks, yet I have no sense of time. I'm not planning anything beyond Nov. 1," he said.

The day was spent with his year-old daughter Amber at Leslie's grave at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

"I want to be with her," Carlo said, adding that for the past few days, he had been "talking" to Leslie as though she were still around.

He visited the blast site at Glorietta 2 to pray for Leslie last week, but he could not bring himself to go to the mall itself.

Reunion

"Not because I'm scared of what may happen," he said. "[It's just that] everywhere, there is a memory of her. Glorietta was our 'gimmick place.' That was where we had our first date."

Nov. 1 would have been an opportunity for Jeanette de Gracia to have a reunion with her children whom she had not seen for a year.

Nearly a month ago, Jee Ann, a computer programmer, was ecstatic over the prospect of a get-together with both of her parents (who are estranged) in Nueva Ecija.

In the good old days, it was the custom of family members to go home to the province on All Saints' Day to pay their respects to the dead and reunite with relatives they had not seen for a while.

But since she parted ways with her husband two years ago, Jeanette said, she had not been allowed to see her children, who lived in a rented house in Sta Cruz, Manila.

Jeanette's reunion with her other kids—Jojo, Jeandy and Jeffrey—was inevitably somber. Nevertheless, she expressed thanks that she was able to feel how much they loved her.

The mother said it was the three other children who told her of Jee Ann's death, and how, on Jee Ann's last day with her siblings, she was so excited over a pending job offer in Singapore.

At Melanie Arroyo's house in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, a flower vase would sometimes topple over as if an unseen hand had playfully nudged it.

Not done mourning

Melanie, whose husband Anthony was pinned to death in the explosion, said she viewed such incidents as his way of telling her that he was still around.

"With every move I make in the house, I see my husband," she said. "It's so difficult to accept his death; we're not yet done mourning."

Anthony, a seaman, would have left for Germany on Oct. 20. Husband and wife were doing last-minute shopping for his trip when the explosion occurred.

To ease her grief, the young wife sought comfort in her close friends, who remarked how strong she was despite her loss.

"I have to be strong, Melanie said. "I can't deal with this alone. And I don't want my children to see me *baliw-baliw* (acting crazy). My children get their strength from me."

On their bed made for two, Melanie once sensed what seemed like arms wrapped around her, as if lulling her to sleep.

"I knew it was him," she said, recalling no fear in Anthony's farewell embrace.

NEW PAPAL NUNCIO JESS YUSON

Newly appointed Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams is welcomed by Filipino bishops upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Thursday. *(Story on Page A5.)*

Relatives remember 800 victims of political slays

From page A1

Tagalog (Bayan-ST), said the relatives, together with the human rights group Karapatan, Bayan and other groups in the region, visited and prayed over the graves of the victims.

In a statement, Albarillo said the group first visited the cemetery in Calamba City where Noli Capulong, the regional leader of Bayan and Bayan Muna, is buried. He was assassinated in May 2006.

"What happened to my husband is extremely painful because he did nothing wrong. Why did they kill my husband?" Capulong's widow Doyet was quoted as saying.

The militants then visited the cemetery in Bay, Laguna, where Romy Malaban, a Bayan Muna leader, is buried. He was killed in December 2003.

Albarillo, whose parents Expidito and Manuela Albarillo were also victims of summary executions in April 2002 in Oriental Mindoro, said the group also visited the graves of other assassinated human rights leaders.

Among them were those of Eden Marcellana, former secretary general of Karapatan-ST; Eddie Gumanoy, a farmer leader, and Diosdado "Ding" Fortuna, a regional labor leader and secretary general of Nestlé Cabuyao employees group.

Mass for the martyred

The group sponsored a Mass for the martyred activists and held up streamers which called for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who they blamed for the murder of their loved ones and comrades.

Albarillo said the group was doing this every year to pay their respects for the greatness of the martyrs, "because they stood for the defense of the basic rights of the greater majority."

"It is here [Laguna] that I will be doing my prayers for my murdered parents for security reasons because from the time that my parents were killed, I have learned that I, too, am on the 'order of battle' of the military," he said.

Bitterness

The statement quoted Dorris Cuario, head of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, as complaining that every time her colleagues visited the graves of the fallen activists, they could not control their sorrow and feeling of bitterness because up to now justice had not been given the victims. Instead, more and more of the activists are being summarily killed.

"But we will not stop protesting the deaths of our members until Ms Arroyo has been made to answer for the extrajudicial killings," Cuario said.

On All Souls' Day, militant groups want the dead and the the living to work together in ousting the President.

Invoking spirits

The peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas called on the spirits of the victims of extrajudicial killings to "touch" Ms Arroyo so that justice would be achieved.

Asked if invoking the spirits meant asking them to appear to or possess anybody, KMP chair Danilo Ramos said: "If ghosts were true, we wish for that to happen. But what we want is for her to be overcome by her conscience and do the right thing because our martyrs' spirits are not yet at peace."

Since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001, more than 430 peasants have been killed by "state forces," but nobody has been punished for the crime, Ramos said. *Reports from Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Jerome Aning in Manila*

A HAPPY FAN of the late Fernando Poe Jr. places flowers at the tomb of the actor in Manila's North Cemetery. ERIK ARAZAS

RELATIVES pay their respects to their departed loved ones on All Saints' Day at the Barangka Cemetery in Marikina City. RAFFY LERMA

Court resurrects 'dead' husband

From page A1

presumptively dead upon the plea of his wife who had said her husband had stopped communicating with her and their children for about 10 years.

The Legazpi City Regional Trial Court (RTC) declared Efren Guevarra presumptively dead in January 2003 as provided for under the Family Code, and allowed his wife Alicia Guevarra to marry again.

Alicia and Efren were married in 1976 and had two children. Efren left the conjugal home in Manila in 1982, and he and Alicia last talked in 1991 when she asked him for financial support for their children. In August 2001, Alicia asked the RTC to declare her husband presumptively dead.

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) contested the RTC decision in the Court of Appeals on the ground that Alicia did not look hard enough for her husband, pointing out that she did not report his disappearance to the police or media and did not seek their help in searching for Efren.

Living with another woman

The appellate court said Alicia failed to diligently search for her missing spouse and to show that she had enough basis to believe that Efren was dead, as required by the Family Code. It also pointed out that evidence showed that Efren was alive, although he was living with another woman.

"In the case at bar, as aptly opined by the OSG, the search conducted by the appellee and the evidence she presented in support of her proposition proves to be too sketchy to bolster a reasonable belief on her part that her husband is already dead," the Court of Appeals said in its decision on Oct. 19.

It said Alicia only searched for her husband immediately before and after filing her petition with the RTC, as shown by her inquiries with the Commission on Elections, a Manila barangay, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Immigration, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the United States Embassy.

The appeals court said the documents that Alicia had gathered did not prove that Efren was dead. The papers only showed that he was not a resident or a registered voter of Manila; he was not a taxpayer in the Sampaloc-Quiapo area; he did not have a passport and did not apply for a US visa, and he did not travel abroad.

Very much alive

The court also said that Alicia did not show proof that she had inquired about her husband's whereabouts from friends and the caretaker of her mother-in-law.

"What the evidence on record proves is that Efren is very much alive and is now cohabiting with another woman for it was actually the appellee who testified that her mother-in-law had informed her of such fact," the Court of Appeals said.

It pointed out that based on Alicia's testimony, it appeared that her husband only chose not to communicate with her and their acquaintances.

In cases in which a spouse is declared presumptively dead, the other spouse should have a well-founded belief that her husband or his wife is dead before the petition is filed, according to the appellate court.

Protect marriage

Marriage is an important social institution that should be safeguarded, said the decision was penned by Justice Josefina Guevara-Salonga.

Two justices of the five-member Special 11th Division, however, dissented.

The appellate court has no jurisdiction over presumptive death rulings because these are immediately executory and could not be questioned through an ordinary appeal such as the one filed by the OSG, according to Justice Vicente Roxas.

A declaration of presumptive death does not mean a person is physically dead, Roxas said. Rather, a person is presumed to be dead, after it is determined that he has been missing for several years, so that his heirs or spouse could go on with their lives.

Roxas said presumptive death petitions could not be questioned because of a lack of clear evidence of death and because presumption already indicated that there was a "cloud" on how a person disappeared.

"The presumption of death is only a legal fiction such like many other legal concepts. Presumption of death cannot be construed so literally that one must have a corpus delicti or to be more blunt—a cadaver," he said.

Roxas said presumptive death rulings could only be brought to the appellate court on a different mode of appeal if the person declared presumptively dead had reappeared or if there was evidence to show he was actually alive.

He also said that petitions for declaration of presumptive death would lead to rulings of presumption and not conclusive determination. Hence, an appeal is an exercise in futility because there is no concept of "disputing a presumption."

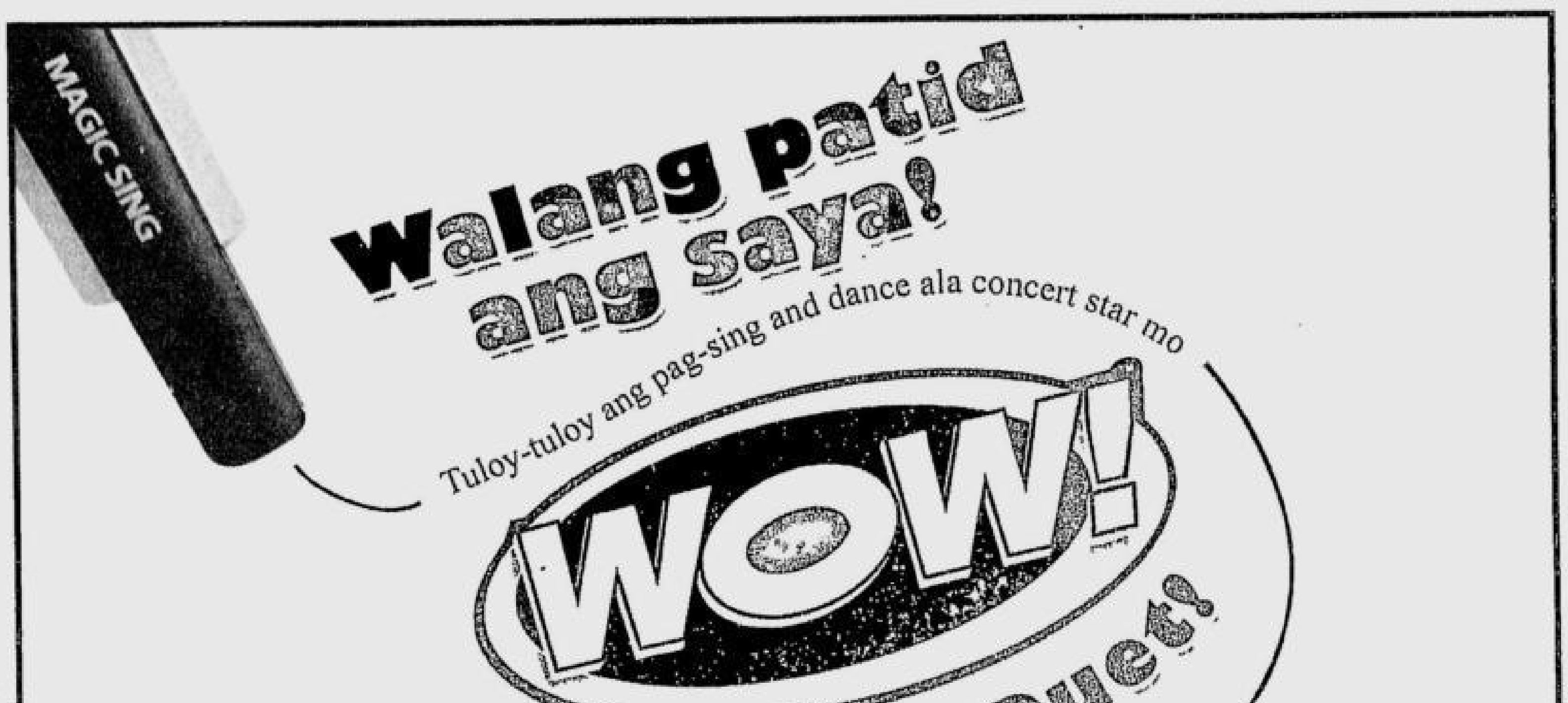
"By nature of a presumption, a presumption is necessarily 'disputable'—indefinitely. The reason why it is a presumption is because there is no conclusion. It always remains doubtful. It always remains disputable and unsure," he said.

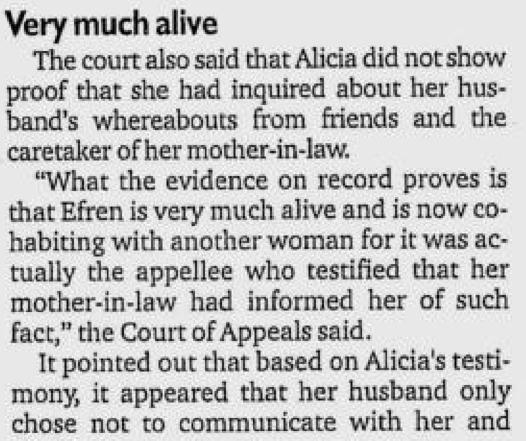
Justice Myrna Dimaranan Vidal said the appellate court could not accept the ordinary appeal filed by the OSG because the RTC ruling was immediately final and executory as provided for under the Family Code. But she said the OSG could still file the proper mode of appeal.

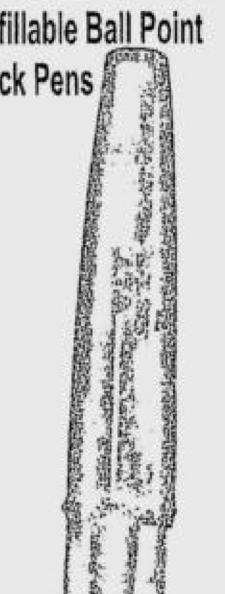
Celebrate & have fun together
DRAGON FIREWORKS
PROFESSIONAL QUALITY PYROTECHNICS & SPECIAL EFFECTS
BIG DISCOUNT & more prizes + FREE DELIVERY
+ For every P2,500.00, you get FREE DISCOUNT TICKET for 5 to
AVILON
Visit www.avilonzoo.com.ph
WE ACCEPT DEALERS (WHOLESALE AND RETAIL)
Distributed by: Exselbrands Marketing Corp.
Tel. No.: 231-5198 • 241-7526 • 244-5539
Telofax: 245-4818 • Cel.No. 0917-8148483
visit www.dragonfireworks.com • e-mail: dragon_fireworks@emailaccount.com

VIPER® AUTOGATE
CONVERTS YOUR GATE TO REMOTE CONTROLLED
Swing-P35,000
Barrier-P45,000
Automatic Parking Barrier P12,500
Sectional Garage Door
www.viper-autogate.com
Roll-Up Door
Slide-P45,000
Available at MC Home Depot-Ortigas & Fort Bonifacio
Free Installation!
Call:243-2610,241-4731,09177949874,Cebu (032)-3465498,Davao (082)-2358821

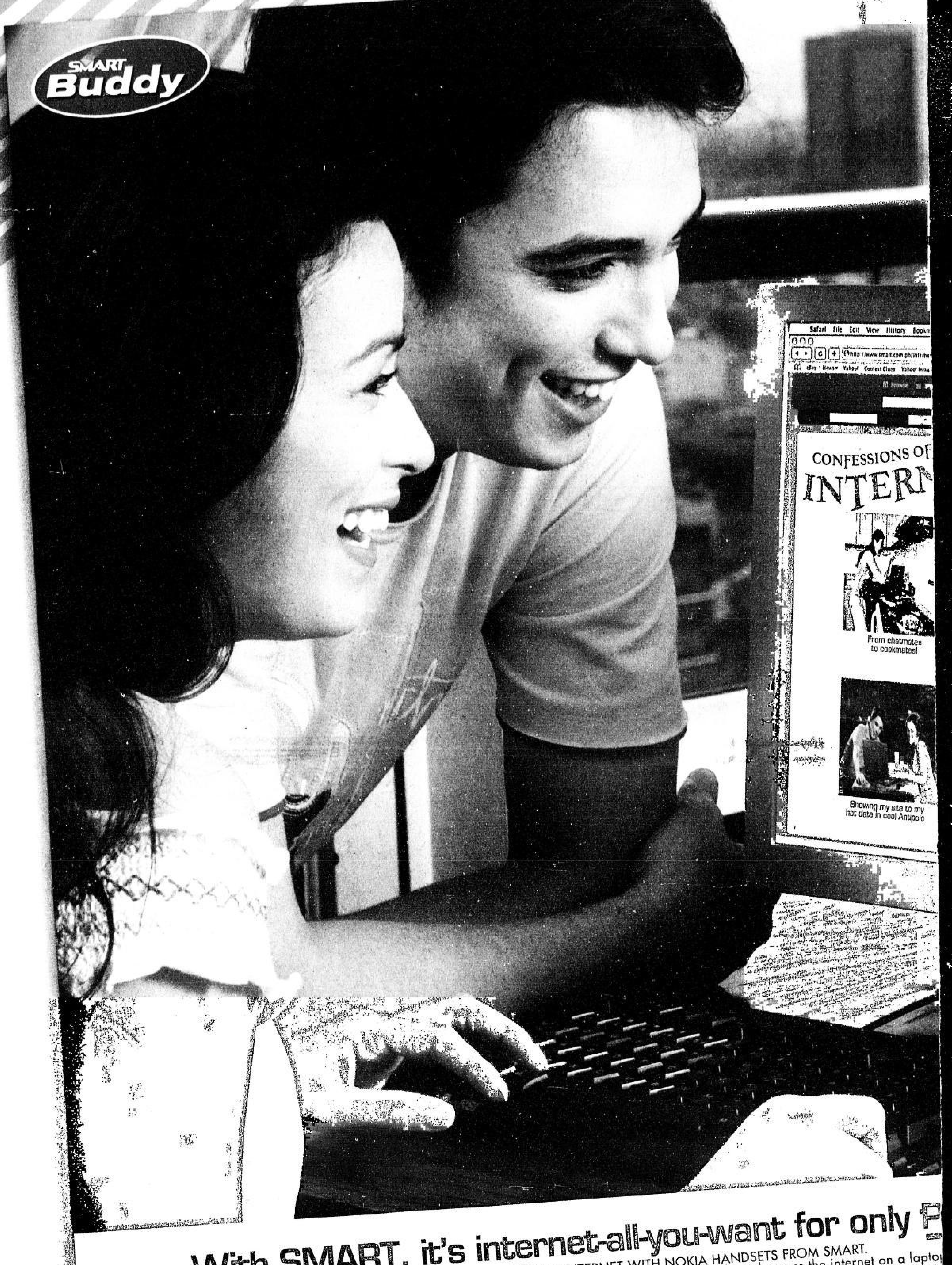
idec®
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted Aircon
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted Aircon 3hp P39,500,4hpP52,000 6hp P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000, 5hp P85,000
Free Installation!
Available at: MC Home (Fort & Ortigas)Call: 2432610,2414731 09177949874, Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821 www.idec-aircon.com


MAGIC SING
Walang patid ang saya!
Tuloy-tuloy ang pag-sing and dance ala concert star mo
WOW! Wireless Duet!
Two wireless microphones na may better quality sound.
Ms. Regine Velasquez
Asia's Songbird
Proud owner of a WOW! magic sing
HALLO I'M TARSY
New! EG1000 CONCERTO EDITION
24 MONTHS WARRANTY with LIFETIME SERVICE
the No.1
NEW FEATURES:
2 Hassle-free Wireless Microphones • 10 - 50 meter range • Improved sound quality • On-screen search by Title or Artist • Select audio output mode (Amplifier or TV mode) • Input songs from remote control • Challenge 100 game • Scroll by page • 4 song chip slots
Plus! Built-in 2,064 songs & 100% WOW Philippines Scenic background
WOW Authorized Dealer:
odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO • AstroVision • Automatic CENTRE • ABENSON • WESTERN • JB MUSIC The Complete Music Shop • Robinsons Appliances
Music Video 2.0 • ASTROPLUS • Home & Office Center • electronics boutique • AVSurfer • Kultura Filipino • SM • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER • Houseware & Appliance Center
The Listening Room • ESLG EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES • Anson @ HOME (Pasig) • avant ABENSON • BLADE • Emme MART • TIONGSAN HARRISON • ADDESSA
BHF • GUANZON • Magic Appliance Center • NCCC Dept. Store • ABENSON • Music Zone • METRO PLAZA The Appliance Center
Metro Manila: Raon, Binondo - Ampere • Ample • Apo Electronics • Armstone • Armstrong Electronics • Fair N Square • FCM Electronics • First Asian Sales • Hirose • J&R • Just Appliance • Knight Audio Room • MAK Audio Video • Martcom Cellular • Milenium Electronics • MJS • Metrotech • New Altronics • Ohms Trader • Pacific Electronics • Prosound Electronics • Prosperous Merchandising • Rodriguez Electronics • Sansonic Marketing • Santech • Solid Electronics • Soundquest Electronics • Welcome Home • W&M Marketing • Worldwide • Zoe Electronics • CALOOCAN - Electroworld • View Plus • Fair N' Square • QUEZON CITY - IAJ Wellness Corporation • CUBAO - Next Genz • Nintendo • MANDALUYONG - Audiophile • Listening Room • Listening Style • RMV Audio Studio • Sights & Sounds • Virtuoso • VMZ Business Center • MAKATI - Earl Toy World • Filgifts.com • Maxx Energie Ventures • Puregold Inc. • Spectra • Victronics Computers Inc. • GREENHILLS - Golden Sound • Silver Gate Computer • Other Metro Manila - Audio Maxx • Amazon • Belcap • Estrellita Appliance • Exponent Group • Finds Superstore • Hardware Exchange • Impress Commercial • Micro J • Nintendo Commercial • Save on Surplus • Work Station • PCBS • E-Pacific Global • Kabayantrading.com • Pesocard.com • Provincial Dealers: Luzon (North) - Addessa • Asiatic Radio Supply • Consumers Appliance Traders • Dagupan Audio Electronics • Ever Appliance • Everest Furniture & Appliance • Grace Electronics • Guanzon Merchandising • International Freeport • Jetronix • Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar • Luzon Appliance Centrum • Manhattan Marketing • Mike's Dept. Store • Solar Sales Center • TSB Bazaar • Ocampo's Inc. Baguio • Ocampo's Angeles • Ocampos Mega Store • Power Station Electronics • Psalm Music Center • Punzalan Trading • S&J Marketing • Soundtrack Electronics • (South) - Aben Marketing • Alson Trading • Jayson Marketing • Multi Brand Distributor • People's Marketing • Robertson Mall • Royal StarAppliance • Thesson's Marketing • Willy & Sons • VISAYAS & MINDANAO - Alfa Appliance • Appliance Centrum Bacolod / Dumaguete • Asian Home • BCS Music Center • Better Components • Better Living Appliance Center • Bohol Quality • Cebu Appliance • Cebu Circuit City • Central RJ Homes • Central Quality Appliance Plaza Inc. • Citi Appliance • CFM Cotabato Falcon Marketing • Davao Better Homes • Dimdi Center • Desmark • Echo • Eco-Tech • Electelcom • Fiesta Appliance Center • Fit Mart • First Family Appliance Circle • Golden Bell • Gloria Bazar • Gleen Marketing • Goldsquare • Graphic All-In • GV Appliance • Harmansons • Holiday Appliance Plaza • KCC Mall of Gensan & Marbel • LYR Marketing • Lopue's Department Store • Loud & Clear • Metro Appliance Centrum • Metro Plaza (Zamboanga) • Naces Appliance • OK Dept. Store • POS Marketing • Quality Appliance • R Abenson • Rainbow Appliance Plaza • Reverb • RJ Homes • Romstrel General Merchandise • Smart Zone • Star Mark Appliance Center • Simosa Marketing • Soundroom • Special Appliance Plaza • Sungold Electronic Supply • Time Express Depot • Victoria Dept. Store
Exclusively Distributed by
in-a-jiffy enterprises
&
G2K CORPORATION
Visit the WOW! Showrooms:
• 1081 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City • Tels. (632) 362-1566 or (632) 361-9450 or (632) 362-3898
• Left Wing G/F Richbell Terraces, 19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan • Tels. (632) 725-3994 and (632) 722-5527
• c/o MAXX ENERGIE GF Bldg. 3 Jannov Plaza 2295 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City, MM, Philippines • Tel: (632)-892-8980
• Log-on to www.wowcountry.com.ph or www.wowmagicsing.com or www.magicmic.com
© Philippine Copyright 2007 by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises


SAINT MARY'S
College of San Juan
Due to overwhelming increase in student enrollment, we are expanding and moving to a bigger, better, and more convenient location in Greenhills on Ortigas Avenue.
Jollibee • Diamond Motors • Caltex • Greenhills Shopping Center • AURORA BLVD • ROOSEVELT • ORTIGAS AVE. • EDSA • Midland • Equitable Bank • METRO BANK • WILSON
Saint Mary's College @ ALCCO Bldg.
MORNING • AFTERNOON • EVENING
WEEKEND CLASSES
BASE HOSPITAL: VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
C.H.E.D. Government Recognition No. 012
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
www.stmarycollege.net
Accepting Applications to All Year Levels!
2nd Semester S.Y. 07-08
Transferee Students SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW
No. 11 J. de Vera St., Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila
721-8938 to 39 Mon. - Sat. 7am - 4pm


People's Choice
SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Reader's Digest Philippines
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
Reader's Digest TRUSTED BRAND 2007 voted by consumers
PLATINUM
PILOT
Refillable Ball Point Stick Pens
BPS-F
Slip proof grip and balanced design ensures comfortable effortless writing
Available in Black, Red Blue
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
P.O. BOX 1601 els.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 2425671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

SMART Buddy


Safari File Edit View History Bookm
http://www.smart.com.ph/inte
CONFESSIONS OF
INTERN
From chatmates to cookmates!
Showing my site to my hot date in cool Antipolo

With SMART, it's internet-all-you-want for only P

ENJOY HIGH-SPEED INTERNET WITH NOKIA HANDSETS FROM SMART.
Connect your phone as a modem via a data cable and access the internet on a lapto
Now you can surf, email, chat, blog all you want for a flat rate of P10 per 30 minute
-- NO MORE PER KILOBYTE CHARGING!

Nokia N92
- Mobile TV-capable
- 2MP Camera
- 3G, WiFi, Bluetooth connectivity
- Large 2.8" 16M color QVGA Swivel Display
- MP3/MP4 Player & FM Radio
- Video Streaming

Nokia N77
- Mobile TV-capable
- Compact and lightweight
- 2MP Integrated camera wi
- 3G and Bluetooth connecti
- Wide 2.4" QVGA Screen
- Email with attachment sup
- Video Streaming

Get Nokia N92 and Nokia N77 FREE at SMART Gold Plan 2500. Visit any SMART Wireless Center today.
Also available under SMART Buddy Prepaid. Go to www.smart.com.ph/3g for more details

To activate your phone settings, send SET <handset model> to 211. Free of charge.

For inquiries and concerns, just access SIM connect on your SMART menu (text GET MENU to 9888 to download the SIM connect menu)
Get your handset from us and enjoy: all-original battery and accessories • 15-day replacement warranty • 12-month service warranty

You can also enjoy internet browsing straight on your cellphone for the same flat

Nokia N92

NOKIA

arks▾ Window Help
Fri 11:59 AM
upersurfer
Q▾ Google
er Man.jpg kirupa.com ▾ Tutorials Flash Tutorial
Search
AN
NET SUPER SURFER
Bloggin to get rid of boredom in beautiful Boracay.
Soak 'n Surf Saturday!
Gotta email those pool party pics ASAP!
Downloading images for my class report.
disc
N77
Text message
79(1)
To: Jake
Options
Close
NOKIA
1 2 abc def 3
4 ghi 5 jkl mno 6
7 pqrs 8 tuv wxyz 9
* + 0 #
COMMUNICATION
INFORMATION
ENTERTAINMENT
TRANSACTIONS

Nokia N77

10 per 30 minutes!

or-desktop.

flash and 16x digital zoom
ity.
with up to 16M color
ort.

or web connect via www.smart.com.ph

rate of P10 for 30 minutes. Open to all GPRS handsets.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

ISSN 0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 22 No. 327

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

100% soy ink

Unpardoned

WHERE WERE WE, BEFORE WE WERE INTERrupted by Malacañang's sudden but inevitable decision to pardon Joseph Estrada? The Palace bribery scandal had reached a new absurd turn. And the Speaker's controversial son and namesake had directly implicated the President and her even more controversial husband in alleged corruption.

EDITORIAL

When telecommunications businessman Jose de Venecia III first testified before the Senate about what he knew of the ZTE contract for the government's national broadband network project, he studiously referred to President Macapagal-Arroyo as "my president." It was an obvious attempt on his part to make a crucial distinction between the series of corrupt acts that he said tainted the ZTE deal beyond redemption and a head of government he said did not know anything about it.

As it turns out, the "my president" ploy was also a subtle attempt to dissuade President Arroyo from moving against Speaker Jose de Venecia, her close ally and former running mate. The Speaker repeatedly defended his son's disclosure as the decision of an independent person; at the same time, he could not forbear to point out that the distinction his son made proved that he himself was not attacking the President.

The last time the younger De Venecia appeared before the Senate, however, the day the Estrada pardon was announced, the circumstances had drastically changed. Perhaps he felt that the Palace was moving to depose his father; perhaps he believed Malacañang could have done more to contain the threats he said his family had received. Whatever: He not only declined to call Ms Arroyo "my president" again; he accused her of encouraging corruption.

In truth, all he did was detail what Secretary Romulo Neri allegedly told him, about President Arroyo's alleged reply to his revelation that Benjamin Abalos, then the chair of the Commission on Elections, had offered him a P200-million bribe. According to the younger De Venecia, Neri told him that the President's initial reply was, Why didn't you take it? but in Filipino.

To be sure, Neri has since vehemently denied telling him any such thing. And the younger De Venecia has had difficulty explaining to reporters why—having already known about this alleged response when he first testified in September—he still kept referring to Ms Arroyo as "my president" then. If true, wasn't the alleged response just as criminal on Sept. 18 as it was when he belatedly revealed it on Oct. 25? (Inconvenient questions like these make us wonder why Malacañang pressed the panic button that day and decided to announce Estrada's pardon.)

The younger De Venecia also implicated the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, in the crooked ZTE deal—but again by relating what another person, this time the equally controversial businessman Ricky Razon, allegedly told him. Some $70 million was reserved for "Mike," he said, because Abalos had stupidly promised precisely that amount to him.

Again, many questions are begging to be asked—and Malacañang would be foolish to believe the Estrada pardon will drive them all away.

Despite our reservations about the younger De Venecia's exposé-by-installment plan, enough reliable information is already available—above all, Abalos' documented participation, which is as inexplicable as it is reprehensible—to merit continuing the investigation.

By the same token, enough misinformation about the distribution of cash gifts in Malacañang has surfaced to support calls for a thorough and impartial probe. The latest and most ridiculous "explanation," offered by Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, plumbs a new low. Apparently, the money received by Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and other governors came from the League of Provinces of the Philippines. Apparently, the LPP has a fund pooled from governors' contributions. And apparently, a poor province like Eastern Samar can afford to give cash gifts to the country's more developed provinces like Pampanga and Bulacan.

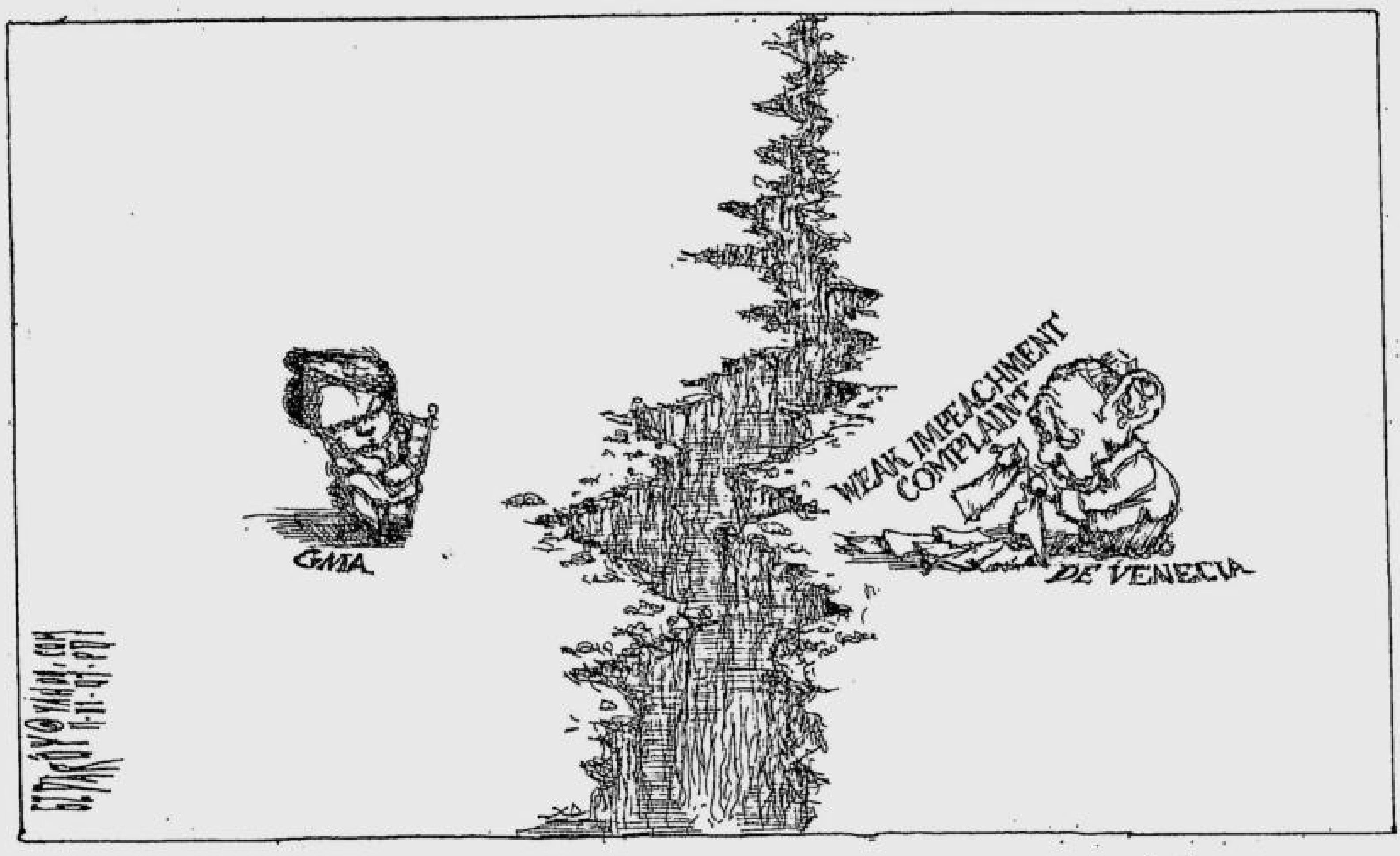
Perhaps the emerging public consensus is wrong. Perhaps the Estrada pardon was rushed, not to deny the younger De Venecia's revelations the headlines, but to obfuscate the LPP explanation, which no sane person can accept. Even a shameless Malacañang was ashamed.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, Page One Operations* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Chief, News Day Desk **Ruben G. Alabastro**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Sandy Simon R. Yap**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Too many lawyers cause too many problems

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

NOW I HAVE AN IDEA WHY WE HAVE SO many problems, why there is so much strife. The reason? Lawyers.

Our law schools turn out so many lawyers that competition becomes fierce. That is why we are a litigious nation and court dockets are clogged and the wheels of justice turns so slowly.

By my own estimate, out of every 10 students who enter law school, only two become practicing lawyers. The rest drop out and shift to other courses, or graduate but flunk the bar exams. Of those who pass the bar, many become notary publics or do not practice law, being contented with being called "attorney" and having their framed diplomas hanging in their living rooms. Of those who practice law, a good number end up in legal departments whose job is to draft legal opinions.

I came to the above conclusions after reading thick files of contracts and other documents relating to the quarrel over the garbage dumps in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, and reading the correspondence between Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III and Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo. The letters were obviously written not by the two officials who signed them, but by their lawyers, judging from the legalese and gobbledygook. The layman cannot understand them, and obviously, Ynares and Cuerpo apparently didn't. No wonder these two gentlemen are quarreling. The documents shouldn't be about the garbage dumps; they should be in them.

To this layman, the problem seems simple enough, although I had a difficult time figuring it out just by reading the legal documents. I had to interview Ynares, Cuerpo, the International Solid Waste Integrated Management Services Inc. (Swims) lawyer and their friends at the Kapihan sa Manila and elsewhere before the light dawned on me.

As I see it, it is so elementary it can be summed up in one five-letter word: m-o-n-e-y. It is said that pirates, robbers, thieves and Mafia gangsters fight over their loot. Same thing here. Recall that the mayor of Pasay was removed from office because of garbage. Dirty, smelly and unsanitary they may be, but there is plenty of money in garbage—for the garbage haulers, for the operators of the garbage dumps, for the local governments where the garbage is dumped, and finally for the scavengers and the merchants who buy the recycled materials they collect.

Do you know that Swims, the contractor of the Rodriguez landfill, grosses at least P400 million annually from the tipping fees, and that the Rodriguez municipal government nets P150 million a year and the scavengers and merchants at least P3 million a month?

Swims and Mayor Cuerpo had such a nice thing going, so why did they quarrel? As in Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, again that five-letter word destroys a friendship.

Cuerpo had the good sense to think of harnessing the methane gas (the same gas that the police say caused the Glorietta 2 explosion) produced by the landfill to generate electricity for his town. He concluded a 10-year contract with Karbon Kredit Philippines Inc. to put up a methane gas recovery project that would cost $30 million. Karbon Kredit would pay the Rodriguez government a 10 percent royalty on gross revenues, which Rodriguez would then share with the provincial government and Swims. I read the contract and they were signed by Cuerpo, Ynares Jr. (father of the present governor) and Reynaldo Perez, president of Swims. So far, so good. So why did they begin fighting?

I asked that question many times of the lawyer of Swims at the Kapihan, but he refused to say why. Neither did Ynares III, who inherited the contract from his father, and Cuerpo. So the reason could only be embarrassing to all of them and most probably it is that five-letter word again. Maybe somebody is not satisfied with the proposed *partihan.* or division of the moneys.

At any rate, Swims, which had bought the raw land around the 14-hectare Rodriguez sanitary landfill, soon had developed an adjacent 19 hectares as another sanitary landfill (Cuerpo says it is not a landfill but an open dump with no Environment Compliance Certificate [ECC] from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR] and no permit from him) and entered into another contract with the Rizal provincial government. Ynares III ordered the closure of the Rodriguez landfill as it is already full as certified by Swims and the opening of the new dump. (Cuerpo says his landfill is still good for two years and two months.)

Cuerpo said, "You cannot do that" and Ynares countered "Yes we can; we have supervision over all municipal governments in Rizal" and "Yes we have an ECC from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA)."

Why did Swims stab Cuerpo in the back? Because the Rodriguez officials are demanding that Swims build a water treatment plant to take care of the leachate from the landfill as stipulated in the contract, which would have cost many millions of pesos. Swims probably decided it would be cheaper to build a new dump than build a water treatment plant, and to hell with the contract.

Now the layman's question: Can just anybody dump garbage in your backyard without your permission? Can the Rizal government make a dump in Rodriguez territory without the permission of its residents? Who is the villain here?

Soul-less evictions for All Souls' Day

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE SCENE WAS ALL TOO FAMILIAR, AS heart-wrenching as it was intellectually agonizing. Stalls were being demolished, the goods confiscated, as the hapless vendors wailed and cried. Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando had ordered the streets kept free for the smooth flow of traffic come the All Souls' Day trek to the cemeteries.

A barangay captain tried to reason with the MMDA, saying that the vendors just borrowed money for their stalls, hoping to cash in on the once-a-year bonanza around the cemeteries, and there was no need for harsh measures. Fernando replied: We have to teach them a lesson, and confiscation is the only language they understand.

Fernando speaks for the traveling public, and for the larger interest in keeping the roads and sidewalks free for cars and pedestrians. These public spaces must not be appropriated for private profit, and Fernando can rightly take credit for applying the full force of the law against all profiteers, big and small.

But, as former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said in one of his historic decisions, there is "a right way to do the right thing at the right time." To treat honest hardworking vendors as if they were criminals—like those abominable thieves who engineered the aborted ZTE deal—is not the right way to celebrate All Souls' Day.

It is strange that in a country where business schools offer fancy courses on entrepreneurship, we unleash burly men against genuine entrepreneurs, small-time in capital and perhaps in imagination, but certainly no free-loaders, no alms-seekers. They are bolder than 2nd- or 3rd-generation tycoons who inherited the wealth but not the risk-taking spirit of their ancestors.

It is stranger still that in a country where half a million pesos is passed around in paper bags like party favors—and Honorable men and women step out of Malacañang carrying goodie bags filled not with Halloween treats but with money looted by fellow notables—that we apply the full brunt of the law against vendors who eke out a living, earning a P1 margin for each plastic cup of watered-down *buko* juice.

But saddest of all, there is really no one to speak up for the vendors if we rely on the political and democratic processes. There is no party-list group representing them. They are not organized into any trade union. They are not geographically discrete. And if they do, they see each other as rivals and would actually say that these demolitions were OK for as long as they target the competition.

If the goal of the MMDA is to clear the public spaces of vendors, it is not enough simply to drive them away. If Fernando says that demolitions are the only language the vendors understand, he should remember the other, equally compelling language they hear, that of economic survival. They will return, Chairman Fernando, for as long as that is the only way to earn a living.

And we, as a society, must support their inexplicable grit to be honest amid life's cruelty and injustice. This time, it's my turn to use the language of supply and demand. If the public keeps on buying from the vendors, it means that the vendors offer a valuable service that the public is willing to pay for. I'm not saying that we must therefore offer our sidewalks wherever that public is willing to buy and the vendors are willing to sell. No. Rather, local governments must allocate space for these vendors, situate them reasonably close to the buying public, and charge them proper rental.

Right now, the vendors are already paying rent—to all the wrong people! Don't tell me they can squat without paying off the police, the barangay tanods, even the security guards, in whatever currency, whether it is in petty cash or free meals. In that sense, Fernando is right: Illegal vending abets corruption.

But his answer is wrong. The solution is not to stop the vending itself; the solution is to legalize the vending, by providing the vendors a proper place to sell their goods, and collecting fees for the value received.

We must see the vendors as legitimate businessmen whom we must foster and develop. Whenever you pass those "Sweet Corn" vendors with handwritten cardboard signs saying "May Luto," ask yourself how much they earn from each *mais*, how much for a whole day of sitting under the rain or sun, and compute how much of your loose change could have made a difference in their lives. (How do they bring their corn all the way there, and how do they bring home the unsold corn at 8 p.m. when they close shop for the day?) They don't need a school of entrepreneurship to know that they must sell if they want to survive.

What worries me even more is the callous attitude of the educated Filipino, confronted with Fernando's argument that we must keep the public spaces public. Sure, Fernando has a point, but it's not as if his is the rational view and our opposition is, at best, a humanitarian plea. This is not a debate of the hard-nosed versus the bleeding heart, of reason versus mushy emotion. No, Fernando's is just one of several options, and we as human beings must choose the most humane among them.

The realist should say: Vendor demolitions do not defeat the law of supply and demand, cannot match the law of survival, and the vendors will inevitably return; with demolitions, there is pain but no gain. The dreamer should say: Vendor demolitions punish the honest and hardworking, and crush the dreams of those who still innocently value a good day's work.

On demolition day, it was "the quality of [our] mercy" that was on the line, our shared humanity and innate sense of justice that was at stake—and we were all diminished.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Conspiracy at the summit

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MANILA IS NOTORIOUS FOR SPINNING CONspiracy theories as ad hoc explanations for events that are hard to believe. One such event was the absolute pardon granted to former President Joseph Estrada on Oct. 25.

On that day, it seemed the weekend held no surprises. Rumors were sweeping the city that Estrada would be pardoned the following day. Someone asked me by phone if this was true. I said, from intuition, "That can happen."

It was the swiftness of the pardon that was stunning.

From the time Estrada was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 12, a real conspiracy was surreptitiously taking place behind the backs of the Filipino people at the summit of political power to fast-track the grant of executive clemency. The conspiracy is no longer just a theory.

In less than six weeks, the pardon became a political reality, a deus ex machina. The pardon was the outcome of the conspiratorial collusion between a former president, the first Filipino president ever to be convicted of corruption on a colossal scale, and a sitting President who is under constant siege of political instability and a likely candidate for another impeachment complaint in Congress and plunder case before the Sandiganbayan.

The Estrada pardon broke records in many respects. It was not only the swiftest pardon ever granted by a Filipino president, since Manuel L. Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth, it also broke precedents in that the terms of the pardon were framed secretly, exclusively between President Macapagal-Arroyo, the highest authority of the land, and a president who had been deposed by a disguised military coup and street uprising and subsequently convicted in a court of justice of plunder on a scale that nearly rivaled that of the dictator, Ferdinand Marcos. The negotiations were conducted secretly by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who is privy to the venalities of the Estrada administration and also of the Arroyo administration. Puno was also Estrada's interior secretary.

This fact heightened the conspiratorial mystery. In this conspiracy at the summit, the public was completely excluded, the President's allies in the ruling Lakas coalition were excluded, and Estrada's cohorts in the opposition were left out. There were no inputs during the negotiations from either group, although the subject of the secret talks was of transcendental importance, a historic compromise involving two fundamental principles of governance: the fair and equal administration of justice under the rule of law; and a criminal system that recognizes that a reconciliation can take place only after a convicted offender has acknowledged guilt. None of these conditions was observed.

Lawyers have argued that the power of the president to grant executive clemency is almost unrestricted, almost monarchical under the doctrine of Divine Rights of Kings in its discretionary range. And yet, no Filipino president since Quezon ever took it upon himself to negotiate with any convicted prisoner, and decided the pardon in such haste as that of President Arroyo on Estrada. This break from precedents and the apparent abuse of discretionary prerogatives are what make the pardon of Estrada so unique, obscene, repulsive and hard to accept by the Filipino people.

Ms Arroyo and Estrada negotiated the terms of their own reconciliation and political settlement to serve the narrow interests of political expediency, disguised as "the national interest."

The talks were carried out within the framework of two self-serving political objectives: that the pardon would bring about political reconciliation and stability, on the part of the President; and the pardon is absolute, Estrada is not humiliated and does not admit guilt. The pardon fulfilled these objectives but, despite the lofty declarations about establishing the environment of tranquility in which the county can "move on" to economic prosperity not disrupted by unrelenting political turmoil, it appears to have been designed to primarily meet the narrow interests of Ms Arroyo, specifically to ensure her political survival up to 2010; and Estrada who wanted to be free again, with political rights fully restored, allowing him to posture again as the champion of the masses who sank deeper in poverty from his looting of resources. Ms Arroyo and Estrada conspired to short-circuit the penal intentions of the criminal justice system to deter future law-breaking by the powerful and influential.

As an immediate consequence of the conspiracy, the pardon has left the political opposition in wider disarray than it had been since the May election. It has shattered Estrada's credibility in the ranks of the opposition. There is widespread suspicion that he had sold out to the administration. His bona fides as a significant leader and symbol of the opposition is under scrutiny, questioned by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who headed the Genuine Opposition in the last election.

The doubts about Estrada began after he distanced himself from the renewed call for the resignation of Ms Arroyo in the face of corruption scandals, particularly the alleged bribery attempts in the national broadband contract with ZTE Corp. and the distribution of cash gifts to congressmen and governors in Malacañang.

Estrada has been compromised by the pardon. The pardon has swiftly unraveled as a scheme to use Estrada to rally his constituency behind the Arroyo administration. Instead, the pardon has marginalized Estrada's influence on the opposition.

Disengagement

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN "LIONS FOR LAMBS" DIRECTOR ROBERT Redford and writer Matthew Michael Carnahan link three different stories into a reflection on the impact of political and social "disengagement" not only on American foreign policy but also on the death or survival of those who choose to try to make a difference.

While a US senator and presidential hopeful (Tom Cruise) tries to convince a TV reporter (Meryll Streep) to "sell" to the American public a new strategy in the US war in Afghanistan, a political science professor in a California university (Redford) tries to convince a promising student (Andrew Garfield) to break out of the cocoon of indifference that his privileged station has afforded him and find a cause to stand behind and work for. The professor's way of reaching out to the student is to tell him about two former students, Ernest (Micheal Peña) and Arian (Derek Lake), who jointly make the decision to enlist in the army and fight in Afghanistan to prove their willingness to stake their lives in their country's future.

Even as conservative forces and liberal tendencies fight it out for the higher ground of public opinion, the two young idealists in Afghanistan find their very survival turning on the decisions being made in Washington and in the minds of every American. But does the average American know this, or even care? It's the "disengagement" of young Americans like Todd Hayes, the slacker student, the movie seems to say, that allows political schemers and reckless commanders to needlessly risk the lives of soldiers like Ernest and Arian.

The title is taken from the comment of a German officer during World War I, when, beholding the bravery of the British soldier, he observed that "never have so many lions been led by so many lambs." That, in itself, is already pungent commentary on the conduct of the American campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

* * *

WHILE watching the movie, it struck me that "disengagement" is precisely the term used by one of the speakers at the "seminar" and study tour I recently undertook in Israel.

Of all the speakers during the week we stayed in the country, professor Naomi Chazan, a former member of the Knesset (Israeli parliament), was the most optimistic about the prospects of peace among Israelis, Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world. This is perhaps understandable, given that Chazan has been a long-time peace activist. But as she herself pointed out, this period in history presents "the best opportunity we ever had in 16 years" for peace. "The US is now totally committed to moving the process forward," she noted, "and many of our Arab partners, and the majority of our leaders and our people" are just as committed to ending decades of animosity.

"The only alternative is catastrophe," she emphasized, expressing a hope that skeptics "suspend disbelief and push for success (of the forthcoming Annapolis Summit) in the next two months."

* * *

BUT Chazan also observed that in her country, "people are so afraid of failure that they're not engaging." Israelis today have become "masters of escapism," she said, noting the "rise of spirituality on a private level" among young Israelis, as evidenced by the explosive growth in yoga classes, meditation sessions, spas and retreats in her country.

Given their history, especially the three years of the "second intifadah" when one never knew when and where suicide bombers would strike, perhaps it's no surprise that Israelis enjoying this breather from violence would rather escape their reality than confront its challenges. But Chazan said it's "sad that more people should be disengaging (these days) rather than protesting."

"If you ask Israelis what their state of mind is today," she said, "they will say that personally, it's never been in better shape, but publicly, only 15 percent of the population believes that the state of the nation is good."

This may explain in part, she added, why, despite the hopeful signs for peace on the horizon, "the peace movement has been dwindling, weaker than it has ever been."

But if fewer Israelis today no longer believe peace is worth fighting for, it is not because they believe war and aggression is the better option. Rather, as Chazan hinted, it is because they have ceased to care.

* * *

"DISENGAGEMENT" may also be the reason for the muted reactions of many Filipinos to the scandals and anomalies we have witnessed in the last few years.

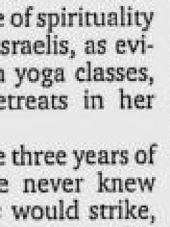
In the wake of the conviction on charges of plunder of former President Joseph Estrada, I wrote that I expected to feel more than the numbness that had seized not just me, but many of my generation and especially the youth. I was puzzled, for hadn't we massed in anger over reports of the corruption that attended the Erap administration? Hadn't we watched avidly as the impeachment hearings took place? Hadn't we gathered in the hundreds of thousands to force him out of office? And hadn't we waited impatiently for the six years of trial to reach a conclusion?

Why then couldn't we summon more elation—or anger?

Maybe we were just saving our hearts from further battering, because our euphoria or righteous ire would have gone to waste given the indecent haste with which Erap has been pardoned, without his having spent even a single day in a "real" jail, not a luxurious residence surrounded by a manicured landscape.

Given the turn of events, "disengagement" would seem to be the proper response, seeing as how often we have been betrayed, used and lied to. But disengaging from the world—tuning out as many Israelis are doing, or getting off as the young student in the movie would—is not so much a response as an escape. Our problems don't really disappear; they remain, but we choose to turn a blind eye to them.

Preparing for death



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOW THAT WE HAVE FINISHED OUR ANNUAL visit to the cemeteries, the dead can rest in peace for a year until Nov. 1 rolls in again.

Death is not something Filipinos are comfortable with, so we burden our heirs with decisions that have to be made when we are (in)conveniently away. I remember how stressful it was to prepare for our mother's unexpected passing. All that we knew was that she did not want to be placed on a life-support system. She did not wish to be revived if her condition meant she would have to spend the remainder of her life as a vegetable. We knew (because she kept repeating it) that she wanted a short wake with a closed coffin, followed by cremation.

She had acquired a memorial plan but nobody seemed to know what she wanted regarding the style, price and color of the casket and urn. We couldn't choose from the display in the funeral parlor because bright and gaudy seemed to be the order of the day. There was nothing simple and dignified available, but atrocious gold creations crafted to justify unnecessary expense. I argued for the cheapest casket because it would only be used for the wake—her final resting place would be an urn in a space she had acquired in the crypt of Sanctuario de San Antonio in Makati. I remember that midnight argument well. When I said let's be practical and get a cheap casket, my sister snapped, "*Ibig mong pagtipiran si* Mommy (You want to scrimp on Mommy)?" I left her to make all the decisions, realizing that the surly man in the funeral office took advantage of our grief. To get even, I had the rug with their screaming corporate logo removed from under the coffin during the wake.

The days that followed made us realize how mother prepared for a trip to the other world. When I asked why she chose a space in the crypt in the bottom rather than the more impressive ones on top, the driver replied that she wanted fresh flower arrangements to rest on the floor beside her niche, a feature that the upper residents of this necrological condominium did not have. She also specified white flowers. If people insisted on giving wreaths with colored flowers, these were to be placed outside the hall.

Then I was shown the detailed and expensive menu for the three-day wake. I asked the caterer why we had to serve full meals—breakfast, lunch, dinner, plus hot *merienda* in between. Wasn't *butong pakwan* and stale juice from tetra paks de rigueur? When I attempted to edit the menu, she replied, "Your mother chose this menu and specifically outlined the order of service."

I threw my hands in the air, rolled my eyes and laughed out loud, because mother, as usual, was controlling her children from beyond the grave.

Death is the last frontier and we often marvel at those who prepare for it. Consider the person buried in the Mannungul Jar that was excavated from the Tabon Cave complex in Palawan some decades ago. This jar is thousands of years old, and while we do not know who commissioned it or who was buried in it, we at least know that early Filipinos had a concept of the afterlife, of a trip on a boat to the next world.

Jose Rizal was also detailed about funeral arrangements. He preferred to be buried in Paang Bundok, where the Manila North Cemetery now stands. He wanted a simple grave with a cross and a tombstone containing his name, the date of his birth and the date of his death—nothing more. If the family wished to build a fence around his grave, they could do so, but "no anniversaries please." Sad to say, none of these wishes were followed. He now lies beneath the monument in Rizal Park, and worse, each year on Dec. 30, the president of the Philippines lays a wreath on his grave, leading the nation in mourning for a man who didn't want his death anniversary observed. This may just be the best excuse to move Rizal Day from Dec. 30, his date of death, to June 19, his birthday. But then if Rizal's own family didn't follow his last wishes, why should we?

The historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo was the same. When I last saw him alive on Dec. 14, 1984, shortly before he passed away, I had brought all of his books and asked him to inscribe them for me. His penmanship, which was wobbly due to a stroke, was unusually firm and legible. I did not give this a second thought, until he pulled a slip of paper from his table and said, "I have been waiting for you for some weeks now. I have something for you." The slip of paper was dated Nov. 9, 1984 and it turned out to be a short poem he had composed as his epitaph. It said:

"Buong kalawakan ang nais liparin/ At ang kalangitan ang ibig marating;/ Ngunit tingnan ninyo ang kinahahantungan/ Sandakot na abong di mapakinabangan!"

Agoncillo wanted a simple narra box made to hold his ashes. He wanted a brass plaque to be attached to this, with his name, his date of birth and date of death. Then somewhere else on this box, the above poem was to be etched on brass as well and attached to a place where it could be read. Death levels all, he explained, in life he aspired for the sky but in death he was just a handful of useless ash.

So much for the annual morbid reflections. I must get back to life and compose my own deathbed wishes.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Simply, Mamita

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS WAITING FOR A FLIGHT WHEN I GOT THE NEWS that Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera had passed away last week. I thought of writing an obituary, but postponed it, not wanting to write while I was still overwhelmed by grief. Mamita was a second mother to me; my parents referred to her in Chinese as my "*hua lang bu*(Spanish mother)" and said that with great pride. I still mourn her passing, but write now, hoping to capture the way she lived, vibrantly and so full of celebration.

I had graduated from college just a year earlier and was working with the Catholic Church's community-based health programs, when a Maryknoll sister suggested that I apply for work with a new non-government organization. It was called AKAP, an abbreviation of the kilometric name Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Caring for Others Health Movement), specializing in tuberculosis control and headed by Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera.

Dr. Tavera? The name of an old wealthy Spanish family alone was intimidating, yet I can't remember the job interview to have been grueling in any sense. What I recall is how she introduced herself, and she insisted that she be called, simply, Mamita.

Weak lungs

I got the job, and when I told my mother about it, she was a bit apprehensive. People tend to exaggerate the infectiousness of TB. My mother was convinced that I had "weak lungs" and, surprise, surprise, she said that I had been diagnosed for "primary complex" (infection with TB) when I was very young, and that my doctor at that time had been no other than Mamita.

One time, while I was having a meeting with Mamita in her house, I told her that I first met her years earlier, as a child and a patient. "Really?" she said, clearly as amused as I was. She asked me to go with her to her clinic at the back of her house. It turned out she had kept every X-ray of each of her patients, filed away in cabinet after cabinet together with clinical notes. Not only that, she was able to locate my X-ray, taken more than 20 years earlier.

"I took most of these X-rays myself," she told me, and said her gnarled fingers were probably the result of all the radiation. Squinting, she looked closely at my X-ray almost as if it had just been taken a few minutes earlier. Then she turned to me and said: "Mike, I never diagnosed you as having primary complex, and the X-rays certainly don't show it."

But she wasn't surprised. She figured I was probably brought to another doctor who then put me on medicines for "weak lungs." There was, and still is, so much misdiagnosis of TB: children being over-diagnosed, while in adults, the disease is often overlooked, until it becomes advanced and difficult to treat, so that thousands of Filipinos still die each year from the disease.

Mamita devoted her whole life to TB. She had graduated from the UP College of Medicine in 1944, one of the few women in her time who dared to become a physician. One reason she went into medicine was that she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her famous grandfather, Trinidad Pardo de Tavera. He was a contemporary of Jose Rizal and, like Rizal, was a doctor—and more. Both men were polymaths, who had a host of other interests besides medicine. Tavera wrote prolifically on everything, from medicinal plants to the different ethnic groups of the Philippines.

Community doctor

Mamita chose to work in TB, again a surprising choice given her elite background. TB was a disease of the poor, so specializing in TB wasn't the way to riches. She worked with the Philippine Tuberculosis Society for 30 years, for many years as its head. She left in 1975, partly because of intrigues in the organization, but also because she had a new vision for TB control. The PTS activities were centered on institutional care, in Quezon Institute (yes, the famous or infamous QI), but through the years, Mamita became convinced that the way to control TB was to mobilize communities.

A few weeks back, I wrote about the late Dr. Louie Saturay, who had worked with Mamita in PTS and joined her when she formed AKAP. Both were convinced that community health workers, including people with minimal formal education, could organize their barangay mates for BCG vaccination, for searching out TB cases, for taking sputum samples to examine for the TB bacilli, and for supervising treatment of those who were infected. It was a radical idea, for medicine is terribly elitist, with little trust of lay people, much less the poor and uneducated.

Yet the key to TB control is the patient's family and community, who need to create a supportive environment for patients to come out and get diagnosed and treated, without the stigma. Community involvement was important, too, because of the complicated treatment for TB. Because of misuse of earlier medicines, many TB patients were infected with strains resistant to the older drugs isoniazid and ethambutol. When AKAP was established, a new anti-TB drug, rifampicin, had just been introduced, raising hopes that TB could be controlled. But rifampicin was terribly expensive so it was important that it would be administered only to those with TB, and under strict monitoring. Mamita found a Dutch church group willing to donate the medicines and money to implement a community-based approach.

That was to be Mamita's mission for the rest of her life. She demanded rigor to prove her point. In the same way that she kept X-rays and records of all her patients, AKAP staff had to document every detail of our work, to come with the statistics and written accounts to prove how we could control TB, all the way down to checking if patients had actually taken their rifampicin (their urine would have a particular orange tinge).

Why did we have to check the patients? Because they were so impoverished that they were often tempted to sell the rifampicin, which could bring in P25 each, at a time when the minimum daily wage was P6!

Mini-manuals

Mamita and AKAP moved beyond TB control, to deal with the many other problems of the community. Mamita was convinced the poor could solve their own problems, especially in health.

One day, she called me in for a meeting on a new idea. "We need simple health education materials," she declared. We were going to produce a series of "mini-manuals," each one focusing on one health topic. She was to work, personally, on each of the manual, down to conceptualizing the drawings and supervising the illustrations by Lino Montebon, a billboard painter(!) from Olongapo. The combination was wonderful, the manuals' texts and illustrations (often showing children running around, romping with other children and dogs and chickens) so filled with life.

I marvel now, thinking back, at how a woman with Mamita's background could have started this kind of work, so late in life, but her venturing into AKAP reminds us no one is ever too old to go out and meet new challenges, conquer new horizons.

(Next week: Not so simply, Mamita)

Culture of bribery as a legacy

BRIBERY HAS BECOME A WAY of life for the Arroyo presidency. It is the administration's recourse to buy support whenever a political crisis erupts or when its legitimacy is put in the dock and its very existence is threatened. It is the administration's mechanism to buy the loyalty of people and "persuade" them to do its bidding.

The brazenness and impunity with which the bribes were offered and given boggle the mind. Nobody is being spared from the tentacles of the administration's "paymasters." Cash-rich envelopes were reportedly distributed to election officers at the La Vista residence of the Arroyos during the 2004 presidential election; "donations" were given to Catholic bishops at the conclusion of their conference sometime in a year past; bribes were dangled before congressmen just so they would endorse a weak and bogus impeachment complaint; bribes were offered to a Cabinet member at a golf course and to a businessman-son of the Speaker by an "accused" broker of a broadband deal.

And now, "cash gifts" for governors, mayors and congressmen, given right at the center of the presidency, in Malacañang, in exchange for continued "loyalty" to the administration.

These are just some of the "overly generous deals" that have come to light in the media. Given the inclination and track record of this administration, there have probably been far more briberies than have been exposed.

In essence, what we have here is not just an illegitimate but also an immoral leader who has torn to pieces the moral fabric of this nation.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
18 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

'If economy's growth is impressive, then why am I not rich?'

MAHAR MANGAHAS EXPLAINED it well in "GNP grew, but incomes fell." (INQUIRER, 10/20/07) The Gross National Product (GNP) and Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) are done by professional statisticians using generally accepted techniques. Even though these two are subject to error, it is likely that the trends they reflect match up to reality. Mangahas defined "Greek-sounding" economic terms in a way that is simple without being simplistic.

But I disagree on one point. I believe the GNP is a superior indicator of economic growth compared to family income. Growth is not the same as development. On one hand, economic growth is the capacity to satisfy the needs of people. This capacity could be best expressed in numbers, either real national income (GNP) or real national income per person (per capita GNP). On the other hand, economic development is a process. This process leads to innovations for a happy, healthy and wealthy life. The economy may grow but not necessarily develop. The same way that a person may grow old but not grow up.

Family income can also be used to show income distribution. It is usually done by surveying households. But the GNP is a better indicator of economic growth since it is done by looking at the production of firms.

The second quarter statistics showed the GNP grow by 8.3 percent in real terms from the same time last year. Also, the per capita GNP of the 88.5 million or so Filipinos grew to P4,230. How long would it take us to double the per capita income should we continue to grow at this amazing rate? I crunched the numbers assuming all other things will hold constant. It will take us about eight years or until 2015 to double the real national income. I hope this would be enough to eradicate extreme poverty.

I wonder. If the economy's growth is impressive then why am I not rich? While some bureaucrats have unexplained wealth, I am one of the legions with unexplained poverty. If I were to be asked to explain the disparity of GNP growth to my lot as a fixed-income earner, I would point out the following:

- The GNP shows the economy's total growth. The growth in the variety of sectors in the economy may differ. I might belong to a sector that is not growing as fast as the nation's production records.
- Like a coin, the economy has two sides: private and public. The public sector is having difficulties in meeting its revenue targets. The higher portion of the nation's income pie is in the private sector's hands. This has been the one fueling the growth.
- I must examine my performance relative to other workers in the same industry. Is it possible that the cause of my economic standing is internal and not external to me?
- If the problem is internal then I should study hard, work harder and pray much more. I must live within my means. I should earn enough to provide for the basic needs of my son—the only one I know of.

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL
G. CAPARAS JR.,
11 Luis Sianghio St.,
1103 Kamuning, Quezon City

Mr. Caparas, thank you for the copy of your letter. In your sentence "GNP is a superior indicator of economic growth" you are clearly referring to growth of **production***. Since "GNP" stands for Gross National Product, it is specifically about production.*

What I said in my column is: "In order to assess if 'the economy' is doing well or doing badly, it is quite clear that the concept of family income is superior to the concept of GNP. The income of the family is its means of acquiring economic goods and services."

To me, the true performance of 'the economy' is not its **production** *but the capability of* **families** *to enjoy economic goods and services. This capability definitely* **fell** *over 2003-2006, since average* **family income fell** *over that period, sad to say. My column points out that it is wrong to assume that growth in GNP is always accompanied by growth in family income.*

—MAHAR MANGAHAS

LETTERS

Excellent analysis of SC decision

MICHAEL L. TAN'S BRIEF BUT excellent and factual analysis of the Philippine Supreme Court's Oct. 9, 2007 decision on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of the Milk Code made clear that initial media reports describing the Court's decision as a defeat were wide off the mark. ("Public health and law," INQUIRER, 10/26/07)

I especially appreciate the mention of the Court's going back to the 1917 Revised Administrative Code of the Philippine Islands and the 1987 Administrative Code, which neatly clarifies the government's health regulatory function. The reminder in the Court's decision—that "trade must be subjected to some form of regulation for the public good. Public health must be upheld over business interests"—is especially important.

Perhaps without knowing it, the Court was echoing an important principle underlying all deliberations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) from 1969 onwards. Article XX of the Text of the General Agreement, which concerns general exceptions, states: "Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption of enforcement by any contracting party of measures ... necessary to protect human ... health [or] necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement ...."

Sincere thanks for this helpful information.

—JAMES AKRE,
akrej@yahoo.com

Out-of-this-world Church leaders

ARE THE BISHOPS OF MINDANAO living in the Philippines or in some place outside earth? I am aghast at their recent claim that there is no solid ground yet to question the moral values and integrity of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts, and that the call to resign is premature.

I ride jeepneys and taxicabs, buy fish balls sold on vending carts; drivers and vendors alike are one in saying that almost all people in government are corrupt. *"Pare-pareho 'yan, kupit at kickback ang kalakaran sa gobyerno,"* they say, alluding to the recent scandals in the government (e.g., bribery in Malacañang and ZTE deal).

It seems that the ordinary people are more rooted in their social life than the bishops are. I wouldn't wonder why, though. Bishops live in, at least, comfortable (that is, if not air-conditioned) rooms, never mind the reports that some of them even receive "donations" from government. A lifestyle removed from the people, flavored with donations from government patrons, can make for real blinders.

I have no illusions about our bishops. My experience with them is more often about their being cautious, ambivalent and vague on crisis situations or issues. And though from time to time there are few among them who can light a spark of hope in my heart with their public pronouncements on issues affecting the flock, I find most of them unanimated, lifeless and wanting of vigor in the service of people.

I remember looking up to bishops and priests as representatives of God. I think many of the faithful believe similarly. Thus when bishops fail to act as such, we get confused and disheartened and, sometimes, we even question our faith.

But let us not lose our faith because of our Church leaders. The bishops are not God. They are people. They can even misrepresent God. We need not believe them all the time. What we need to do as the faithful is to continue journeying with the ordinary people in their life struggles. Listen to them and hear their cry just like Jesus Christ did. Be sensitive to the inner stirrings within us and faithfully listen to what God calls us to do. Our God is compassionate and just. Where compassion is needed, He extends it. Where there is injustice and evil, He seeks retribution.

Where corruption abounds, retribution is needed. Joseph Estrada's plunder, Joc-Joc Bolante's scam, Lintang Bedol's case, the ZTE Broadband deal, the "cash gifts" in Malacañang, all these are manifestations of injustice and evil. Therefore, retribution is needed. Those who are responsible should be held accountable and punished. We should work actively to bring about justice for the sake of our people and the future generations. Never mind that some bishops are out-of-this-world—or so blind—to see all these shenanigans.

—JOHN CORTEZ III,
campaigns and advocacy staff,
Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiyano,
230 St. Anthony's Building,
Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, QC

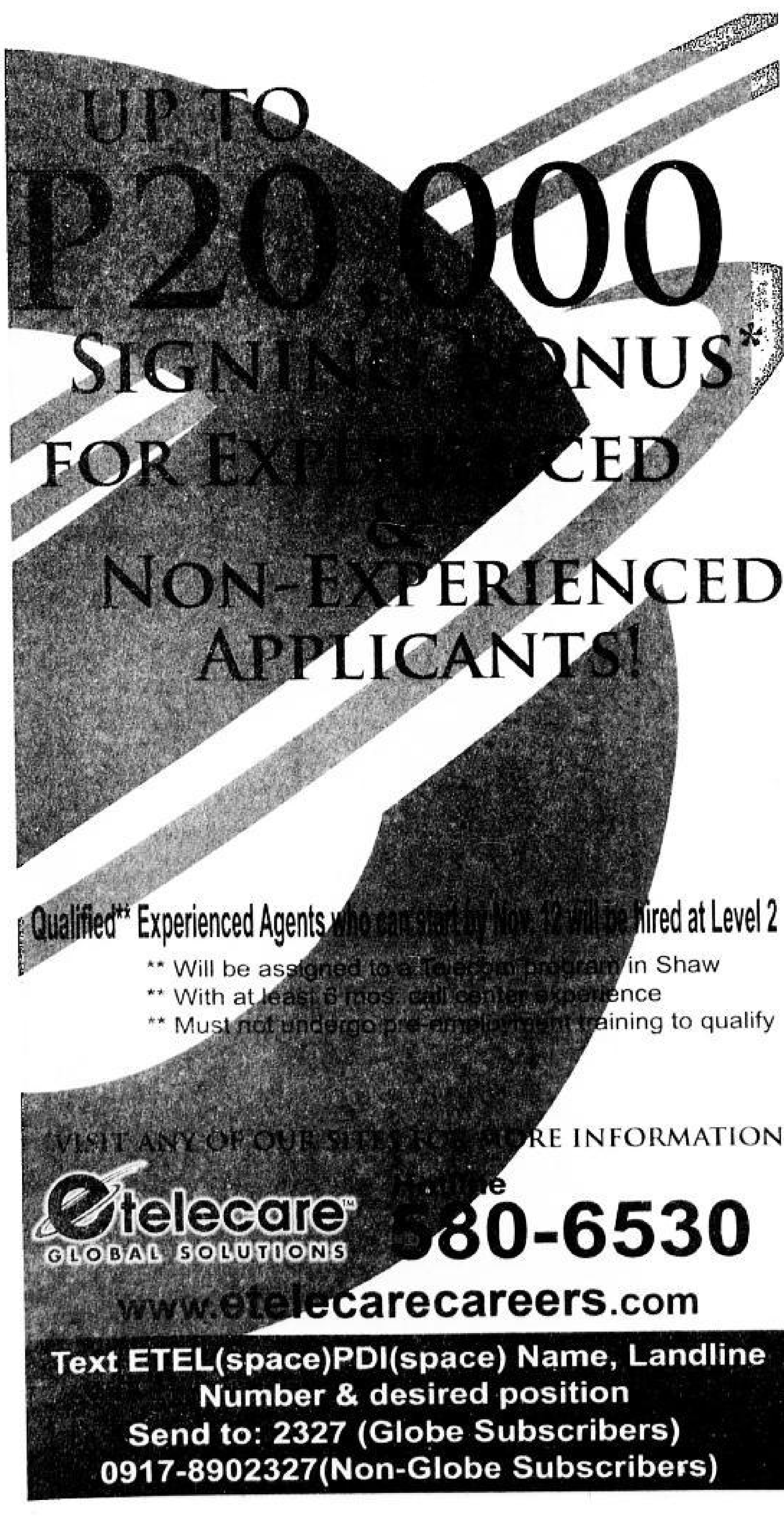
UP car plate valid until July 2008

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH A NEWS STORY titled "Cops, again, say they'll go after cars with sirens." (INQUIRER, 10/10/07) The report mentioned a list (supposedly issued by the Traffic Management Group or TMG) of commemorative plates allowed for use.

In this regard, we would like to assure the INQUIRER and its readers that Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Berroya of the Land Transportation Office have approved the issuance of the UP Centennial Car Plate nationwide for the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in Iloilo.

The plates are valid for use up to July 2008 as approved. We were surprised to learn that our association was not included in the TMG's list. We would like to request that this oversight be corrected.

—REYNALDO M GUSTILO, D.M.D,
president,
University of the Philippines
Alumni Association in Iloilo,
UP Visayas, General Luna Street,
Iloilo City


UP TO
P20,000
SIGNING BONUS*
FOR EXPERIENCED
&
NON-EXPERIENCED
APPLICANTS!
Qualified** Experienced Agents who can start by Nov. 12 will be hired at Level 2
** Will be assigned to a Telecom program in Shaw
** With at least 6 mos. call center experience
** Must not undergo pre-employment training to qualify
VISIT ANY OF OUR SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION
etelecare GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
Hotline
580-6530
www.etelecarecareers.com
Text ETEL(space)PDI(space) Name, Landline Number & desired position
Send to: 2327 (Globe Subscribers)
0917-8902327(Non-Globe Subscribers)

Fearful and trembling

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

THOUSANDS OF POOR METRO Manila families wait in fear and are trembling at the prospect of being evicted and torn from the world of friends and comfortable routine they have lived with for years. Their jobs and children's schooling have been tossed up in the air.

We visited some of these areas recently. They are often places of unbelievable squalor, but there are also lovely children, young people going to college, people doing a hundred different things to make money for their families and women talking about their situation with realism and humor. According to the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, up to 393,000 families face eviction in the next few years . . .

We stop first at the Laong Laan railroad station in Sampaloc where we meet with Belen Mojica and other leaders of the Samahan ng Apektadong Pamilya sa Riles (Sapar), a people's organization. Part of the station's roof is gone. Weeds grow high among the tracks. It's quiet like a rural station, even with children everywhere. On the ticket window, a notice says the train for Alabang leaves at 12:43. There is another sign just below, reminding us not to take the schedule or life itself too seriously: "Relax, God is in control," it says.

The people are part of the 50,000 families, along the railroad from Manila to Calamba, that will be evicted so the line can be modernized. The government wants to move the Sapar people to Trece Martires, but most of them refuse. A woman sitting on a four-foot high box says, "Why should I move? There are no services there."

The people prefer Montalban or Marilao, which are closer to their jobs than Trece Martires. They are not sure the government will allow them to go where they want. Why not, a visitor wonders. Montalban and Marilao are official relocation sites and will cost no more than Trece Martires. The people say they are willing to build their homes and they only need land and basic services. Usually along the railroad, the government also provides housing. A train rumbles by; it is so dirty and banged up, it looks like a mummy that had been dead and buried for years.

Laong Laan is Jose Rizal's pen name. The tiny station is likely to go once the people leave. It's not needed on a modernized railroad. Maybe, Dr. Rizal will look after the people and the station.

We go next to a community of 50 families along Paco Estero in Barangay 734, Manila. The people were evicted in April by the Metro Manila Development Authority and left on the streets. After some time they were allowed to return to the *estero*. Now they are crushed together as far from the *estero* waterline as possible.

Cathy Arquero, one of the community leaders, says sickness among the children is common because of the rain and mosquitos. The people want to go to Montalban, but it's not at all clear the government will let them. Usually, the MMDA does not relocate evicted families despite the country's Constitution and laws.

All in all there are 970 evicted families along Paco Estero. I ask Cathy (then a candidate for barangay kagawad) what her platform is. She will work for the human rights of the people, she says; she will teach children how to handle garbage, so they don't dirty the place and make people sick; and she'll fight for the relocation to Montalban. She has a son, Mark, 20, studying Electronics and Communications Engineering in college. The people plan to invite Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales to visit them and say Mass in December for the Panunuluyan of the Urban Poor.

We walk around the corner to Quirino Avenue at the other end of the barangay. Here the small huts are so closely jammed together that, looking down on them from the bridge, they seem to have been dropped there all together as someone would drop a pile of rubbish—cans, bottles and junk—into a garbage bag. There are lines of wet clothes hanging. It is a gloomy day, so they don't sparkle; but in the sun they might. Carl Sandburg in his poems about Chicago talks of the clean curtains the poor women put up in their homes as silent protest against the city's industrial grime and cold ways.

Next we go to Baseco at the mouth of the Pasig River. There, in 2002, 52 hectares of land were proclaimed for the urban poor. It is home now to 10,000 or more families. Since 2002, the area, once a lagoon, has been filled in. Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity have built about 1,200 very decent homes for the people, the type of home everyone else would like to have. However, the Public Reclamation Authority and the city have learned that the previous landfill done in Baseco would be dangerous in case of an earthquake, and they are talking about removing all the structures, including the 1,200 newly built houses, and then refilling the whole area.

The Kabalikat people's organization and its president, Jeorgie Tenolete, find it hard to understand how 1,200 houses, built a short time ago with private donations of over P60 million, can be so readily destroyed. They want to know more about the government's plans.

We walk to the Gawad Kalinga site in Baseco, where there are gardens full of lush flowers and vegetables with vines on lattices arching over the paths. It is quiet, no tricycles, jeepneys, *karaokes*. A person could sit there, watch the children play and be very happy.

We stop our visits at Baseco. There's no time for Parola, Isla Puting Bato, Happyland, Dumpsite, Ulingan and the thousands of other urban poor places in our metropolis that await the demolition team. Can't we do better?

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates. His e-mail address is upa@pldtdsl.net.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Culture of bribery as a legacy

BRIBERY HAS BECOME A WAY of life for the Arroyo presidency. It is the administration's recourse to buy support whenever a political crisis erupts or when its legitimacy is put in the dock and its very existence is threatened. It is the administration's mechanism to buy the loyalty of people and "persuade" them to do its bidding.

The brazenness and impunity with which the bribes were offered and given boggle the mind. Nobody is being spared from the tentacles of the administration's "paymasters." Cash-rich envelopes were reportedly distributed to election officers at the La Vista residence of the Arroyos during the 2004 presidential election; "donations" were given to Catholic bishops at the conclusion of their conference sometime in a year past; bribes were dangled before congressmen just so they would endorse a weak and bogus impeachment complaint; bribes were offered to a Cabinet member at a golf course and to a businessman-son of the Speaker by an "accused" broker of a broadband deal.

And now, "cash gifts" for governors, mayors and congressmen, given right at the center of the presidency, in Malacañang, in exchange for continued "loyalty" to the administration.

These are just some of the "overly generous deals" that have come to light in the media. Given the inclination and track record of this administration, there have probably been far more briberies than have been exposed.

In essence, what we have here is not just an illegitimate but also an immoral leader who has torn to pieces the moral fabric of this nation.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
18 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

'If economy's growth is impressive, then why am I not rich?'

MAHAR MANGAHAS EXPLAINED it well in "GNP grew, but incomes fell." (INQUIRER, 10/20/07) The Gross National Product (GNP) and Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) are done by professional statisticians using generally accepted techniques. Even though these two are subject to error, it is likely that the trends they reflect match up to reality. Mangahas defined "Greek-sounding" economic terms in a way that is simple without being simplistic.

But I disagree on one point. I believe the GNP is a superior indicator of economic growth compared to family income. Growth is not the same as development. On one hand, economic growth is the capacity to satisfy the needs of people. This capacity could be best expressed in numbers, either real national income (GNP) or real national income per person (per capita GNP). On the other hand, economic development is a process. This process leads to innovations for a happy, healthy and wealthy life. The economy may grow but not necessarily develop. The same way that a person may grow old but not grow up.

Family income can also be used to show income distribution. It is usually done by surveying households. But the GNP is a better indicator of economic growth since it is done by looking at the production of firms.

The second quarter statistics showed the GNP grow by 8.3 percent in real terms from the same time last year. Also, the per capita GNP of the 88.5 million or so Filipinos grew to P4,230. How long would it take us to double the per capita income should we continue to grow at this amazing rate? I crunched the numbers assuming all other things will hold constant. It will take us about eight years or until 2015 to double the real national income. I hope this would be enough to eradicate extreme poverty.

I wonder. If the economy's growth is impressive then why am I not rich? While some bureaucrats have unexplained wealth, I am one of the legions with unexplained poverty. If I were to be asked to explain the disparity of GNP growth to my lot as a fixed-income earner, I would point out the following:

- The GNP shows the economy's total growth. The growth in the variety of sectors in the economy may differ. I might belong to a sector that is not growing as fast as the nation's production records.
- Like a coin, the economy has two sides: private and public. The public sector is having difficulties in meeting its revenue targets. The higher portion of the nation's income pie is in the private sector's hands. This has been the one fueling the growth.
- I must examine my performance relative to other workers in the same industry. Is it possible that the cause of my economic standing is internal and not external to me?
- If the problem is internal then I should study hard, work harder and pray much more. I must live within my means. I should earn enough to provide for the basic needs of my son—the only one I know of.

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL
G. CAPARAS JR.,
11 Luis Sianghio St.,
1103 Kamuning, Quezon City

Mr. Caparas, thank you for the copy of your letter. In your sentence "GNP is a superior indicator of economic growth" you are clearly referring to growth of production. *Since "GNP" stands for Gross National Product, it is specifically about* production.

What I said in my column is: "In order to assess if 'the economy' is doing well or doing badly, it is quite clear that the concept of family income is superior to the concept of GNP. The income of the family is its means of acquiring economic goods and services."

To me, the true performance of 'the economy' is not its production *but the capability of* families *to enjoy economic goods and services. This capability definitely* fell *over 2003-2006, since average* family income fell *over that period, sad to say. My column points out that it is wrong to assume that growth in GNP is always accompanied by growth in family income.*

—MAHAR MANGAHAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

Excellent analysis of SC decision

MICHAEL L. TAN'S BRIEF BUT excellent and factual analysis of the Philippine Supreme Court's Oct. 9, 2007 decision on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of the Milk Code made clear that initial media reports describing the Court's decision as a defeat were wide off the mark. ("Public health and law," INQUIRER, 10/26/07)

I especially appreciate the mention of the Court's going back to the 1917 Revised Administrative Code of the Philippine Islands and the 1987 Administrative Code, which neatly clarifies the government's health regulatory function. The reminder in the Court's decision—that "trade must be subjected to some form of regulation for the public good. Public health must be upheld over business interests"—is especially important.

Perhaps without knowing it, the Court was echoing an important principle underlying all deliberations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) from 1969 onwards. Article XX of the Text of the General Agreement, which concerns general exceptions, states: "Subject to the requirement that such measures are not applied in a manner which would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to prevent the adoption of enforcement by any contracting party of measures ... necessary to protect human ... health [or] necessary to secure compliance with laws or regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement ...."

Sincere thanks for this helpful information.

—JAMES AKRE,
akrej@yahoo.com

Out-of-this-world Church leaders

ARE THE BISHOPS OF MINDANAO living in the Philippines or in some place outside earth? I am aghast at their recent claim that there is no solid ground yet to question the moral values and integrity of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts, and that the call to resign is premature.

I ride jeepneys and taxicabs, buy fish balls sold on vending carts; drivers and vendors alike are one in saying that almost all people in government are corrupt. *"Pare-pareho 'yan, kupit at kickback ang kalakaran sa gobyerno,"* they say, alluding to the recent scandals in the government (e.g., bribery in Malacañang and ZTE deal).

It seems that the ordinary people are more rooted in their social life than the bishops are. I wouldn't wonder why, though. Bishops live in, at least, comfortable (that is, if not air-conditioned) rooms, never mind the reports that some of them even receive "donations" from government. A lifestyle removed from the people, flavored with donations from government patrons, can make for real blinders.

I have no illusions about our bishops. My experience with them is more often about their being cautious, ambivalent and vague on crisis situations or issues. And though from time to time there are few among them who can light a spark of hope in my heart with their public pronouncements on issues affecting the flock, I find most of them unanimated, lifeless and wanting of vigor in the service of people.

I remember looking up to bishops and priests as representatives of God. I think many of the faithful believe similarly. Thus when bishops fail to act as such, we get confused and disheartened and, sometimes, we even question our faith.

But let us not lose our faith because of our Church leaders. The bishops are not God. They are people. They can even misrepresent God. We need not believe them all the time. What we need to do as the faithful is to continue journeying with the ordinary people in their life struggles. Listen to them and hear their cry just like Jesus Christ did. Be sensitive to the inner stirrings within us and faithfully listen to what God calls us to do. Our God is compassionate and just. Where compassion is needed, He extends it. Where there is injustice and evil, He seeks retribution.

Where corruption abounds, retribution is needed. Joseph Estrada's plunder, Joc-Joc Bolante's scam, Lintang Bedol's case, the ZTE Broadband deal, the "cash gifts" in Malacañang, all these are manifestations of injustice and evil. Therefore, retribution is needed. Those who are responsible should be held accountable and punished. We should work actively to bring about justice for the sake of our people and the future generations. Never mind that some bishops are out-of-this-world—or so blind—to see all these shenanigans.

—JOHN CORTEZ III,
campaigns and advocacy staff,
Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiyano,
230 St. Anthony's Building,
Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, QC

UP car plate valid until July 2008

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH A NEWS STORY titled "Cops, again, say they'll go after cars with sirens." (INQUIRER, 10/10/07) The report mentioned a list (supposedly issued by the Traffic Management Group or TMG) of commemorative plates allowed for use.

In this regard, we would like to assure the INQUIRER and its readers that Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Berroya of the Land Transportation Office have approved the issuance of the UP Centennial Car Plate nationwide for the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in Iloilo.

The plates are valid for use up to July 2008 as approved. We were surprised to learn that our association was not included in the TMG's list. We would like to request that this oversight be corrected.

—REYNALDO M GUSTILO, D.M.D,
president,
University of the Philippines
Alumni Association in Iloilo,
UP Visayas, General Luna Street,
Iloilo City

Fearful and trembling

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

THOUSANDS OF POOR METRO Manila families wait in fear and are trembling at the prospect of being evicted and torn from the world of friends and comfortable routine they have lived with for years. Their jobs and children's schooling have been tossed up in the air.

We visited some of these areas recently. They are often places of unbelievable squalor, but there are also lovely children, young people going to college, people doing a hundred different things to make money for their families and women talking about their situation with realism and humor. According to the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, up to 393,000 families face eviction in the next few years . . .

We stop first at the Laong Laan railroad station in Sampaloc where we meet with Belen Mojica and other leaders of the Samahan ng Apektadong Pamilya sa Riles (Sapar), a people's organization. Part of the station's roof is gone. Weeds grow high among the tracks. It's quiet like a rural station, even with children everywhere. On the ticket window, a notice says the train for Alabang leaves at 12:43. There is another sign just below, reminding us not to take the schedule or life itself too seriously: "Relax, God is in control," it says.

The people are part of the 50,000 families, along the railroad from Manila to Calamba, that will be evicted so the line can be modernized. The government wants to move the Sapar people to Trece Martires, but most of them refuse. A woman sitting on a four-foot high box says, "Why should I move? There are no services there."

The people prefer Montalban or Marilao, which are closer to their jobs than Trece Martires. They are not sure the government will allow them to go where they want. Why not, a visitor wonders. Montalban and Marilao are official relocation sites and will cost no more than Trece Martires. The people say they are willing to build their homes and they only need land and basic services. Usually along the railroad, the government also provides housing. A train rumbles by; it is so dirty and banged up, it looks like a mummy that had been dead and buried for years.

Laong Laan is Jose Rizal's pen name. The tiny station is likely to go once the people leave. It's not needed on a modernized railroad. Maybe, Dr. Rizal will look after the people and the station.

We go next to a community of 50 families along Paco Estero in Barangay 734, Manila. The people were evicted in April by the Metro Manila Development Authority and left on the streets. After some time they were allowed to return to the *estero*. Now they are crushed together as far from the *estero* waterline as possible.

Cathy Arquero, one of the community leaders, says sickness among the children is common because of the rain and mosquitos. The people want to go to Montalban, but it's not at all clear the government will let them. Usually, the MMDA does not relocate evicted families despite the country's Constitution and laws.

All in all there are 970 evicted families along Paco Estero. I ask Cathy (then a candidate for barangay kagawad) what her platform is. She will work for the human rights of the people, she says; she will teach children how to handle garbage, so they don't dirty the place and make people sick; and she'll fight for the relocation to Montalban. She has a son, Mark, 20, studying Electronics and Communications Engineering in college. The people plan to invite Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales to visit them and say Mass in December for the Panunuluyan of the Urban Poor.

We walk around the corner to Quirino Avenue at the other end of the barangay. Here the small huts are so closely jammed together that, looking down on them from the bridge, they seem to have been dropped there all together as someone would drop a pile of rubbish—cans, bottles and junk—into a garbage bag. There are lines of wet clothes hanging. It is a gloomy day, so they don't sparkle; but in the sun they might. Carl Sandburg in his poems about Chicago talks of the clean curtains the poor women put up in their homes as silent protest against the city's industrial grime and cold ways.

Next we go to Baseco at the mouth of the Pasig River. There, in 2002, 52 hectares of land were proclaimed for the urban poor. It is home now to 10,000 or more families. Since 2002, the area, once a lagoon, has been filled in. Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity have built about 1,200 very decent homes for the people, the type of home everyone else would like to have. However, the Public Reclamation Authority and the city have learned that the previous landfill done in Baseco would be dangerous in case of an earthquake, and they are talking about removing all the structures, including the 1,200 newly built houses, and then refilling the whole area.

The Kabalikat people's organization and its president, Jeorgie Tenolete, find it hard to understand how 1,200 houses, built a short time ago with private donations of over P60 million, can be so readily destroyed. They want to know more about the government's plans.

We walk to the Gawad Kalinga site in Baseco, where there are gardens full of lush flowers and vegetables with vines on lattices arching over the paths. It is quiet, no tricycles, jeepneys, *karaokes*. A person could sit there, watch the children play and be very happy.

We stop our visits at Baseco. There's no time for Parola, Isla Puting Bato, Happyland, Dumpsite, Ulingan and the thousands of other urban poor places in our metropolis that await the demolition team. Can't we do better?

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates. His e-mail address is upa@pldtdsl.net.

UP TO
P20,000
SIGNING BONUS*
FOR EXPERIENCED
&
NON-EXPERIENCED
APPLICANTS!

Qualified** Experienced Agents who can start by Nov. 12 will be hired at Level 2
** Will be assigned to a Telecom program in Shaw
** With at least 6 mos. call center experience
** Must not undergo pre-employment training to qualify

VISIT ANY OF OUR SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION
etelecare GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
Hotline
580-6530
www.etelecarecareers.com
Text ETEL(space)PDI(space) Name, Landline Number & desired position
Send to: 2327 (Globe Subscribers)
0917-8902327(Non-Globe Subscribers)

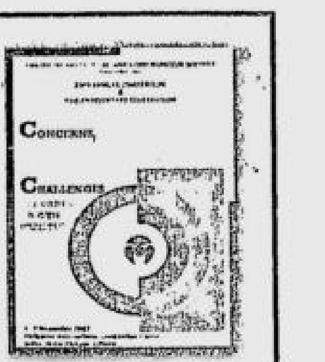
IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

ANNUAL CONVENTION & 61st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 4-7, 2007 Philippine International Convention Center & Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel



"Concerns, Controversies, and Challenges in Current OB-GYN Practice"

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the **Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc.** as you hold your 2007 Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary Celebration.

Your anniversary is a testament to your enduring commitment to elevate obstetrics and gynecology in the country to world standards. I laud your efforts to advance the welfare of your members while working hard to serve the medical needs of our women, particularly the mothers.

Through your convention, with the theme, *"Concerns, Controversies and Challenges in Current Ob Gyn Practice,"* may you further improve your technical know-how and expertise as you rise above the challenges of your profession.

The government works to make quality healthcare more affordable and accessible to our people. I hope that you will continue to be one with us in this endeavor. Together, we can beat the odds and demonstrate a greater capacity to fight poverty and improve the overall health and well-being of the Filipino people.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. as they hold their 2007 Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary with the theme, "Concerns, Controversies & Challenges in Current Ob-Gyn Practice".

The Department of Health welcomes this event as an indication of your commitment to undertake more worthy actions that will further improve the practice of obstetrics and gynecology for the benefit of the country's women and children.

I enjoin you to further aspire for excellence and innovation and promote activities that will not only improve health care delivery but also lead our nation towards greater progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Philippine Medical Association extends its sincerest congratulations to the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. in the holding of their Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary Celebration.

Your efforts in resolving "Concerns, Controversies and Challenges in Current Ob-Gyn Practice" adequately proves that you are continuously working on the upliftment of the quality of health care.

However, there are also several concerns, controversies and challenges faced not only by Obstetricians and Gynecologists but by the entire medical profession as well. At present, the medical profession is bombarded with several issues that need to be addressed. Some of these are the exodus of doctors, most of whom have left the country as nurses; the declining interest in medicine as a career/profession and the deteriorating image of physicians. Not to mention the many legislative bills being passed by both Houses which are detrimental to our profession and to the other allied health professionals, worst some of these bills are sponsored by our fellow physicians.

Rest assured that the PMA will continue its struggle to fight for every physician's rights and will work on its integration. The success in our battle will soon be realized with your solid support and cooperation.

Mabuhay and I love you all!

JOSE ASA SABILI, MD
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Once again, the PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL and GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC. takes pride in inviting and welcoming you to the 2007 Annual Convention & the 61st Anniversary Celebration on November 4-7, 2007.

This significant and prestigious activity will be held at the Sofitel Hotel Philippine Plaza and the Philippine International Convention Center, where foreign speakers and local experts will share their expertise in the fields of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

This year's Convention with its theme: "Concerns, Controversies, and Challenges in Current OB-GYN Practice", is a manifestation of our strong commitment to keep ourselves abreast with the New Trends in our profession.

The meeting will start with several pre-convention postgraduate programs which include: Reproductive Medicine & Surgery, Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Adult Women Medicine and Advanced Pelvic Surgery. The Scientific Program Committee has prepared excellent papers for the plenary sessions, luncheon symposia, debates and simultaneous panel discussions in the different subspecialties of the Society.

Adding spice to the Celebration are the annual POGS Olympics, giving of major awards to deserving Fellows of the Society, Induction of new Diplomates and Fellows, and the Election of new officers for the year 2008.

To our sponsors and benefactors, to the Organizing Committee and to all those who gave their untiring support to ensure the success of the Annual Convention, our sincerest gratitude.

Godbless! MABUHAY ang POGS!

ROGELIO PEREZ MENDIOLA, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Greetings!

As we usher in the 60th decade of our society, the Annual Convention addresses the need of the times. If we as obstetricians and gynecologists are to be relevant in current practice we have to put forth our concerns, tackle controversial issues with what is good evidence and hurdle the challenges. After all, at the end of the day we begin to polish our craft to better serve the Filipinas. It is a distinct responsibility when we took on the profession and we trained, pursued the specialties, and interact with our fellow members to come out with a unique and distinct plan for our female population. It is for these reasons that we came out with plenary sessions that deal with generalities in practice, shift gears towards subspecialties in detail but not forgetting the respite from mental exercise - singing and dancing- where we really put out our best as well.

The convention is only once a year but it is a year or even more in the making. In behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Organizing Committee, we thank God for the privilege of the profession and the opportunity of service to our colleagues and women population.

MA. CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, M.D
Vice President

Board of Trustees

Seated (Left-Right)
CHRISTIA S. PADOLINA, MD
Public Relations Officer
MA. CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, MD
Vice President
ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, MD
President
BLANCA C. DE GUIA, MD
Secretary

Standing (Left-Right)
ENRICO GIL C. OBLEPIAS, MD
Member
MA. CARMEN H. QUEVEDO, MD
Member
VIRGILIO B. CASTRO, MD
Member
REY H. DE LOS REYES, MD
Member
LOURDES BLANCO-CAPITO, MD
Member
SYLVIA DE LAS ALAS-CARNERO, MD
Member
MARIA LOURDES B. COLOMA, MD
Treasurer

Regional Directors

ELLEN A. MANZANO, MD
Region 1 - Northern Luzon

MELCHOR C. DELA CRUZ, MD
Region 2 - Cagayan Valley

CONCEPCION P. ARGONZA, MD
Region 3 - Central Luzon

DIVINA P. ROJAS, MD
Region 4 - Southern Tagalog

CARIDAD E. MOLINO, MD
Region 4A - NCR

ELNA NIDEA-CHIA, MD
Region 5 - Bicol

ROSELLER RAFAEL V CABADO, MD
Region 6 - Western Visayas

FELICIANA H. SEGUERRA, MD
Region 7 - Central Visayas

REALINO G. MOLINA, MD
Region 8 - Eastern Visayas

ARACELI T. TAN, MD
Region 9 - Western Mindanao

MA. MELISSA F. DIAWATAN, MD
Region 10 - Northern Mindanao

HELEN GRACE TE-SANTOS, MD
Region 11 - Southern Mindanao

Keynote Lecturer

PROF. DOROTHY SHAW, MD

Guest of Honor & Inducting Officer

TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO
Presiding Justice/Chairperson
First & Special Division,
Sandiganbayan

Awardees

MILDRED NEGRE-PAREJA, MD
Baldomero Roxas Memorial
Lecturer and Awardee
for Academic Excellence

MA. GAY MANUEL-GONZALES, MD
Ramon Lopez Awardee
for Community Service

GREG B. PASTORFIDE, MD
Honoria Acosta-Sison
Awardee for Research

JEAN ANNE B. TORAL, MD
Constantino P. Manahan
Young Researcher Awardee

Organizing Committee

ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, MD
Honorary Chairman

MA. CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, MD
Overall Chairman

DITAS CRISTINA D. DECENA, MD
Convention Secretary

BLANCA C. DE GUIA, MD
Member

MARIA LOURDES B. COLOMA, MD
Member

CHRISTIA S. PADOLINA, MD
Member

Committee Chairs

JENNIFER T. GO, MD
Arrangements

ANGELA S. AGUILAR, MD
Documentation

ALEJANDRO R. SAN PEDRO, MD
Exhibits

CONCEPCION P. ALFILER, MD
Hospitality & Tours

DIOSDADO V. MARIANO, MD
Programs & Invitations

MARY JOCELYN Y. LAYGO, MD
Registration

DELFIN A. TAN, MD
Scientific Program

MA. LOURDES B. ESCOBAR, MD
Socials

JERICHO THADDEUS P. LUNA, MD
Sports

ZORAIDA R. UMIPIG, MD
Souvenir Program

LETY CHUA-TORREGOSA, MD
Ways & Means

Convention Highlights

DAY 0. SATURDAY NOVEMBER 03, 2007

POGS Olympics

DAY 1. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 04, 2007

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**Registration** (D. Reg., PICC)
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	**Registration of Postgraduate Program**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**Convention Postgraduate Program** Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel (SPPH)
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	**PAGSPHIL, PSMFM, PSCM, OSP, PHISSAM, PSOPS** (Boracay Room, Davao Room, Leyte/Samar Room, Romblon/Mindoro Room)
12:00 - 1:30 PM	**Multicare Lunch Symposium**
1:30 - 4:00 PM	**PSREI, PSUOG, PSCM, OSP, PHISSAM, PSGE** (Boracay Room, Davao Room, Leyte/Samar Room, Romblon/Mindoro Room)
4:30 PM	**Opening Ceremonies** **Memorial Lecture and Awards** **Induction of New Diplomates** **Welcome Reception** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

DAY 2. MONDAY NOVEMBER 05, 2007

7:00 AM - 12:00 NN 2:00 - 4:00 PM 7:00 AM	**Registration** (D. Reg., PICC) **Opening of Exhibits** (Forum 2, PICC Tent)
8:30 - 11:00 NN	**Plenary Lectures 1** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions 1** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12.00 - 2.00 PM	**Annual Business Meeting** (Reception Hall, PICC)
2:00 - 4:30 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions 1** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR 5, MR 6 - PICC)
5:30 PM	**Fellowship Night** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

DAY 3. TUESDAY NOVEMBER 06, 2007

08:00 - 4:00 PM	**Registration**
7:30 AM - 2:00 PM	**ELECTION** (Delegate Lounge, PICC)
9:00 - 11:00 AM	**Plenary Sessions II** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions II** ***"Stump the Professors"*** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12:00 - 1:15 PM	**Simultaneous Industry Sponsored Symposia I** (MR C, MR D, MR E, MR 2 & 3, MR, 4, MR 5, MR 6)
1:30 - 4:00 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions II** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR5, MR 6, PICC)
4:30 - 6:30 PM	**Faculty Night** (By invitation)
6:00 PM	**Night Show**

DAY 4. WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2007

08:00 - 12:00 NN	**Registration** (D. Reg., PICC)
09:00 - 11:00 AM	**Plenary Sessions III** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions III** ***"Debate Hour"*** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12:00 - 1:15 PM	**Simultaneous Industry Sponsored Symposia II** (MR C, MR D, MR 4, MR 5)
1:30 - 3:30 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions III** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR 5, MR 6, PICC)
4:30 PM	**Closing Ceremonies** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

DENR clears mine firm in fishkill

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources has cleared the mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. of any hand in Sunday's fishkill in Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Environment regional director Reynulfo Juan reported to acting Environment Secretary Manuel Gerochi that the site of the fishkill was far from Lafayette's polymetallic mine site on the island.

Quoting results of an investigation, Juan explained that the dead fish washed ashore was confined to a 50-meter radius from the pier, or 10 kilometers from the mine site.

Contrary to reports of a massive fishkill, Juan said only two sacks of dead fish, weighing 20 kg, were collected near the pier.

"There was no indication of a massive fishkill from the shorelines of Barangays Carogcog, Sta. Barbara, Malobago, Pagcolbon and Binowasan," he said, citing reports of the investigating team and statements of barangay leaders.

The DENR, however, could not establish the cause of the fishkill. It has sought the assistance of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in conducting extensive laboratory analysis.

Tests

So far, tests on water samples from the five barangays showed that these were "generally within DENR standards for pH and cyanide parameters, according to Juan.

> 'There was no indication of massive fishkill'

The team, composed of technical personnel from the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, however, would continue the probe, he added.

Clemente Bautista, coordinator of the Kalikasan-People's Environment Network, scoffed at the initial results of the investigation.

"That's a weak argument. The trash of the project directly flows into the sea and nowhere else," he said in a phone interview. "That's quite irresponsible of them to clear the firm without first determining the cause of the fishkill."

He maintained that the fishkill was massive because it affected five barangays.

Residents reported fishkill in the five barangays on Sunday, after three days of heavy rain, and suspected that these came from the vicinity of the mining site.

Back in operation

The government suspended Lafayette's operations in January 2006, months after it spilled mine tailings in October 2005, but it cleared its resumption in February.

The spills resulted in a series of fishkills and toxic metal contamination.

Juan said the team found no overflow or spill from the events pond of the mining project, or the lower tailings storage facility during the heavy rain on Saturday.

It also found the quality of marine water from the fishkill site to the project area to be within DENR standard for cyanide, and that Lafayette had stopped operating the project's mill plant since Friday, he added.

Deeper probe

Mayor Dick Galicia of Rapu-Rapu said he would seek the help of the Philippine National Police and possibly other law enforcement agencies once the results of the water sample analysis disproves that the fishkill was not related to the mining operations.

Galicia made the statement after word came out that a group of local politicians allegedly staged the fishkill on suspicion that Lafayette supported some candidates in the Oct. 29 barangay elections.

"That was a very sinister act that must be severely penalized if proven true," Galicia said.

Protesters, mostly fishermen, trooped to the municipal hall demanding immediate relief assistance and compensation for the latest fishkill.

Gov. Jose Sarte Salceda also called for an investigation. *Reports from Bobby Q. Labalan, Ephraim Aguilar and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon; and TJ Burgonio in Manila*

Army holds Bayan Muna E. Visayas spokesperson

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE MILITARY arrested on Sunday the spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Eastern Visayas in a town in Samar.

The soldiers arrested Flor Acbo at around 4 p.m. in Barangay Dos, Pinabacdao town, Eastern Samar, according to his daughter Geraldine.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Brigade based in Catbalogan City, admitted that Acbo was in military custody but claimed that the Bayan leader was just "invited" for questioning.

No warrant

"My father was seized by the soldiers without any reason. We appeal to them not to do harm to our father. He did not commit any (illegal act) for them to justify his arrest," Acbo's 18-year-old daughter said in an interview yesterday.

She said her father was arrested in Pinabacdao while helping in the campaign of a relative who ran during Monday's barangay elections.

Geraldine said several soldiers were roaming the streets of Pinabacdao, more than 60 kilometers from Tacloban City, on Sunday.

Went out to vote

She explained that her family went to Pinabacdao to vote. "My father did not resist when he was arrested by the soldiers," Geraldine added. Acbo and his family live in Tacloban.

Acbo hails from Pinabacdao, where he ran for mayor but lost during the 1988 elections.

Geraldine recalled that her father cheated death on Jan. 27 when two armed men, riding on a motorcycle, ambushed him in Pinabacdao.

Luckily, she said, the firearms of her father's assailants misfired.

In good hands

Soldiers led by Lt. Alex Elnar brought Acbo to the headquarters of the 8th Infantry Division), which is based in Catbalogan, according to Ponce.

But Ponce claimed that his men only "invited" Acbo.

"He is in good hands. And it was not an arrest but a mere invitation for him to answer our questions. His family has nothing to worry about. I am taking full responsibility for his welfare," Ponce said in a phone interview.

He explained that the soldiers were in Pinabacdao because they received information from a Barangay Dos resident about the presence of 12 alleged members of the New People's Army in the village.

"Unfortunately, we were late in arriving in the area since the armed men were no longer there.

FLOWER SEASON
Flower vendors, like this one, fill up a portion of Quezon Avenue in Legazpi City a day before the commemoration of All Souls' Day.
NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

3 drown as boat capsizes off north Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THREE PERSONS, including a 10-month-old boy, drowned while two others remained missing when a motorboat capsized off Camotes Island in northern Cebu on Wednesday night.

PO1 Ritchie Camillo, police investigator of Pilar town in Camotes, identified the fatalities as Edcel de la Cruz, 10 months; Liza Cabillo-Godinez and Eleanor Tecling.

Camillo said the missing passengers were Edgar de la Cruz, father of Edcel, and the still unnamed 10-year-old son of Godinez.

The bodies of the young De la Cruz, Godinez and Tecling were found in the waters off the coastal village of Guinkan-an in Pilar yesterday morning, police said.

The motorboat MB Anton was three to five meters from the shore of Barangay Kawit in Pilar at about 7 p.m. when strong waves battered the vessel and swept it to 50 meters from where it capsized, Camillo said.

The boat had 13 passengers and 15 crewmen when it left Danao City in mainland Cebu at 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

Two of the passengers disembarked at the port of San Francisco town, also in Camotes, before proceeding to Kawit in the nearby island of Ponson.

All crewmen and the six passengers were rescued.

Boat captain Elmer Gocela swam to the shore and got another pumpboat to rescue the passengers and crew, Camillo said.

He said nobody at the port of Kawit noticed when the Anton was carried away by strong waves because of the heavy downpour.

Most of the passengers were Pilar natives who have been living in the mainland and returning to the island on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

All Saints' Day brings flower fest near graves

ILIGAN CITY—IF SALES OF flowers are brisk on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, why not hold a two-day flower festival near the crowded public cemetery?

An all-women cutflower growers' cooperative in Barangay Tipanoy here is again exploiting the opportune times in what should have been uneventful moments of reverence for the dead.

Showcase

It is showcasing its products, just like what it did in 2005 and 2006, according to Crecencia Gonza, co-op chair.

People normally buy flowers for their departed loved ones, and cooperative members, numbering 30, would find it convenient to make their cutflowers available near the cemetery and earn more, she said.

Rose varieties

An American rose sells for P150 a dozen at the festival, but the public will have a wide range of varieties to choose from, Gonza said.

Gonza said the cooperative had asked the city government to pave the bumpy road leading to its plantations so that the quality of harvest could be maintained.

Cutflowers have been the main source of income for many Tipanoy residents, she said. *Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao*

Farmers on 1,700-km walk for land reach Leyte

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

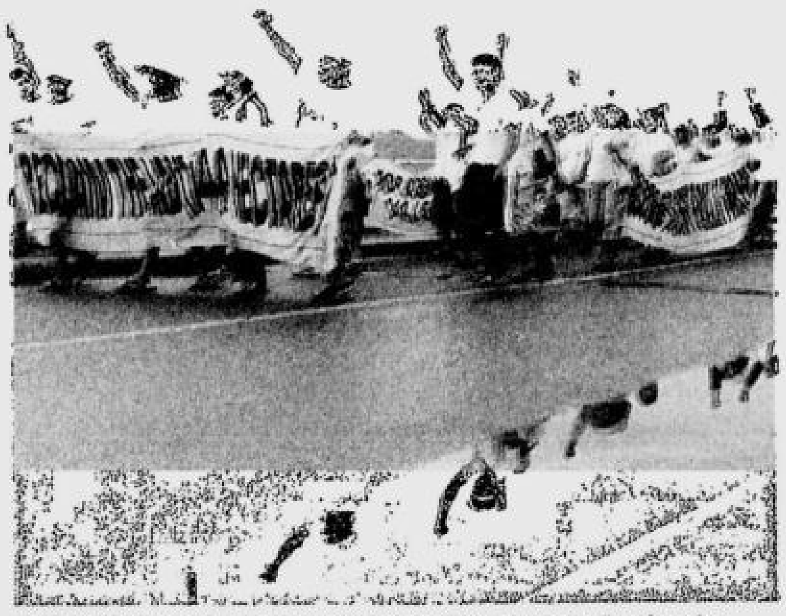
TACLOBAN CITY—"LUMAD" farmers from Sumilao town in Bukidnon reached Leyte on Tuesday night in a protest march from their province to Manila to urge the government to give back their ancestral land.

The 55-member group, 14 of them women, showed their resolve to regain ownership of their 144-hectare ancestral land in Barangay San Vicente, Sumilao, by going to Manila on a 1,700-kilometer walk that would end on Dec. 10. The farmers walked 30-40 kilometers a day.

Powers-that-be

The Department of Agrarian Reform issued in 1997 certificates of land ownership award (Cloa) for the 144-ha land to 137 farmers belonging to the Mapadayonong Panaghiusa sa mga Lumad Alang sa Damlag (Mapalad) Multipurpose Cooperative.

But then Executive Secretary Ruben Torres issued a resolution approving the conversion of the property from agricultural to agro-industrial as requested by the landowner, Norberto Quisumbing Sr. Management and Development Corp.



FARMERS from Sumilao, Bukidnon cross the famous San Juanico Bridge connecting the island-provinces of Samar and Leyte on Nov. 1 on their 22nd day of "walk for land, walk for justice" toward Metro Manila.
JIMMY DOMINGO/CONTRIBUTOR

In applying for reclassification, the corporation claimed plans to set up the Development Academy of Mindanao, a cultural center, Institute for Livelihood Science, a museum, library, golf course and the Mindanao Sports Development Complex in the property.

No projects

But the proposed projects did not materialize. Instead, the corporation sold the land to San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) in 2002.

Despite several setbacks in their efforts to get back the land, the farmers remained hopeful since the land remained idle, except for a piggery farm owned by SMFI.

"The land is ours. Our ancestors have tilled the land. And we are willing to sacrifice and walk this far if this is the only way our government, particularly President Arroyo, will heed us," said Hilda San-haan, 58 and the oldest in the group.

Her father Anastacio was one of the *lumad* in the area who had tilled the land. Lumad is the name given to indigenous peoples of Mindanao.

Pigs

Napoleon Merida Jr. said that putting up the piggery farm that was supposed to be theirs was so telling.

"Does this mean that we ordinary farmers are being considered mere pigs? That we don't have rights to till and own our own land?" he said when interviewed at the social hall of the Redemptorist Church in Tacloban City, where the group stayed.

Merida's father Napoleon Sr. and sisters, Cheril Lorenza and Marilou, also joined the march.

"I don't like to leave San Vicente thinking that I would be leaving behind my young children. But they knew that what their mama is doing is for their own good and for a good future," said Cheril, who was in tears.

Church sympathy

Archbishop Jose Palma of the Archdiocese of Palo expressed sympathy for the farmers' plight in a pastoral letter.

"We are then one with you in our prayers and, as the parishes with which you pass by may have concretely shown, in offering you food and shelter, especially for your overnight repose," the archbishop said in his letter to the group.

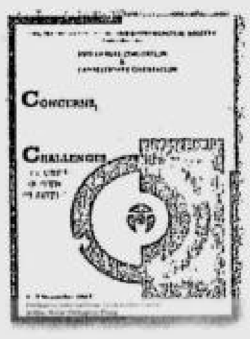
Lawyer Arlene Bag-ao of the Balaud Mindanaw, a nongovernment organization helping the farmers, said the group left San Vicente, Sumilao on Oct. 10 and had made 20 stops so far, covering 16 towns in Mindanao and seven towns in Southern Leyte and Leyte.

The group left Sumilao with just three sacks of milled rice but the provision has remained untouched as many have given them food and mats, including the DAR regional office in Tacloban. The group left city at dawn of Thursday dawn for Samar.

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

ANNUAL CONVENTION & 61st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 4-7, 2007 Philippine International Convention Center & Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel



"Concerns, Controversies, and Challenges in Current OB-GYN Practice"

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the **Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc.** as you hold your 2007 Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary Celebration.

Your anniversary is a testament to your enduring commitment to elevate obstetrics and gynecology in the country to world standards. I laud your efforts to advance the welfare of your members while working hard to serve the medical needs of our women, particularly the mothers.

Through your convention, with the theme, *"Concerns, Controversies and Challenges in Current Ob Gyn Practice,"* may you further improve your technical know-how and expertise as you rise above the challenges of your profession.

The government works to make quality healthcare more affordable and accessible to our people. I hope that you will continue to be one with us in this endeavor. Together, we can beat the odds and demonstrate a greater capacity to fight poverty and improve the overall health and well-being of the Filipino people.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. as they hold their 2007 Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary with the theme, "Concerns, Controversies & Challenges in Current Ob-Gyn Practice".

The Department of Health welcomes this event as an indication of your commitment to undertake more worthy actions that will further improve the practice of obstetrics and gynecology for the benefit of the country's women and children.

I enjoin you to further aspire for excellence and innovation and promote activities that will not only improve health care delivery but also lead our nation towards greater progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Philippine Medical Association extends its sincerest congratulations to the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. in the holding of their Annual Convention and 61st Anniversary Celebration.

Your efforts in resolving "Concerns, Controversies and Challenges in Current Ob-Gyn Practice" adequately proves that you are continuously working on the upliftment of the quality of health care.

However, there are also several concerns, controversies and challenges faced not only by Obstetricians and Gynecologists but by the entire medical profession as well. At present, the medical profession is bombarded with several issues that need to be addressed. Some of these are the exodus of doctors, most of whom have left the country as nurses; the declining interest in medicine as a career/profession and the deteriorating image of physicians. Not to mention the many legislative bills being passed by both Houses which are detrimental to our profession and to the other allied health professionals, worst some of these bills are sponsored by our fellow physicians.

Rest assured that the PMA will continue its struggle to fight for every physician's rights and will work on its integration. The success in our battle will soon be realized with your solid support and cooperation.

Mabuhay and I love you all!

JOSE ASA SABILI, MD
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Once again, the PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL and GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC. takes pride in inviting and welcoming you to the 2007 Annual Convention & the 61st Anniversary Celebration on November 4-7, 2007.

This significant and prestigious activity will be held at the Sofitel Hotel Philippine Plaza and the Philippine International Convention Center, where foreign speakers and local experts will share their expertise in the fields of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

This year's Convention with its theme: "Concerns, Controversies, and Challenges in Current OB-GYN Practice", is a manifestation of our strong commitment to keep ourselves abreast with the New Trends in our profession.

The meeting will start with several pre-convention postgraduate programs which include: Reproductive Medicine & Surgery, Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Adult Women Medicine and Advanced Pelvic Surgery. The Scientific Program Committee has prepared excellent papers for the plenary sessions, luncheon symposia, debates and simultaneous panel discussions in the different subspecialties of the Society.

Adding spice to the Celebration are the annual POGS Olympics, giving of major awards to deserving Fellows of the Society, Induction of new Diplomates and Fellows, and the Election of new officers for the year 2008.

To our sponsors and benefactors, to the Organizing Committee and to all those who gave their untiring support to ensure the success of the Annual Convention, our sincerest gratitude.

Godbless! MABUHAY ang POGS!

ROGELIO PEREZ MENDIOLA, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Greetings!

As we usher in the 60th decade of our society, the Annual Convention addresses the need of the times. If we as obstetricians and gynecologists are to be relevant in current practice we have to put forth our concerns, tackle controversial issues with what is good evidence and hurdle the challenges. After all, at the end of the day we begin to polish our craft to better serve the Filipinas. It is a distinct responsibility when we took on the profession and we trained, pursued the specialties, and interact with our fellow members to come out with a unique and distinct plan for our female population. It is for these reasons that we came out with plenary sessions that deal with generalities in practice, shift gears towards subspecialties in detail but not forgetting the respite from mental exercise - singing and dancing- where we really put out our best as well.

The convention is only once a year but it is a year or even more in the making. In behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Organizing Committee, we thank God for the privilege of the profession and the opportunity of service to our colleagues and women population.

MA CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, M.D
Vice President

Board of Trustees

Seated (Left-Right)
CHRISTIA S. PADOLINA, MD
Public Relations Officer
MA. CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, MD
Vice President
ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, MD
President
BLANCA C. DE GUIA, MD
Secretary

Standing (Left-Right)
ENRICO GIL C. OBLEPIAS, MD
Member
MA. CARMEN H. QUEVEDO, MD
Member
VIRGILIO B. CASTRO, MD
Member
REY H. DE LOS REYES, MD
Member
LOURDES BLANCO-CAPITO, MD
Member
SYLVIA DE LAS ALAS-CARNERO, MD
Member
MARIA LOURDES B. COLOMA, MD
Treasurer

Regional Directors

ELLEN A. MANZANO, MD
Region 1 - Northern Luzon

MELCHOR C. DELA CRUZ, MD
Region 2 - Cagayan Valley

CONCEPCION P. ARGONZA, MD
Region 3 - Central Luzon

DIVINA P. ROJAS, MD
Region 4 - Southern Tagalog

CARIDAD E. MOLINO, MD
Region 4A - NCR

ELNA NIDEA-CHIA, MD
Region 5 - Bicol

ROSELLER RAFAEL V CABADO, MD
Region 6 - Western Visayas

FELICIANA H. SEGUERRA, MD
Region 7 - Central Visayas

REALINO G. MOLINA, MD
Region 8 - Eastern Visayas

ARACELI T. TAN, MD
Region 9 - Western Mindanao

MA. MELISSA F. DIAWATAN, MD
Region 10 - Northern Mindanao

HELEN GRACE TE-SANTOS, MD
Region 11 - Southern Mindanao

Keynote Lecturer

PROF. DOROTHY SHAW, MD

Guest of Honor & Inducting Officer

TERESITA J. LEONARDO-DE CASTRO
Presiding Justice/Chairperson
First & Special Division,
Sandiganbayan

Awardees

MILDRED NEGRE-PAREJA, MD
Baldomero Roxas Memorial
Lecturer and Awardee
for Academic Excellence

MA. GAY MANUEL-GONZALES, MD
Ramon Lopez Awardee
for Community Service

GREG B. PASTORFIDE, MD
Honoria Acosta-Sison
Awardee for Research

JEAN ANNE B. TORAL, MD
Constantino P. Manahan
Young Researcher Awardee

Organizing Committee

ROGELIO P. MENDIOLA, MD
Honorary Chairman

MA CORAZON ZAIDA N. GAMILLA, MD
Overall Chairman

DITAS CRISTINA D. DECENA, MD
Convention Secretary

BLANCA C. DE GUIA, MD
Member

MARIA LOURDES B. COLOMA, MD
Member

CHRISTIA S. PADOLINA, MD
Member

Committee Chairs

JENNIFER T. GO, MD
Arrangements

ANGELA S. AGUILAR, MD
Documentation

ALEJANDRO R. SAN PEDRO, MD
Exhibits

CONCEPCION P. ALFILER, MD
Hospitality & Tours

DIOSDADO V. MARIANO, MD
Programs & Invitations

MARY JOCELYN Y. LAYGO, MD
Registration

DELFIN A. TAN, MD
Scientific Program

MA. LOURDES B. ESCOBAR, MD
Socials

JERICHO THADDEUS P. LUNA, MD
Sports

ZORAIDA R. UMIPIG, MD
Souvenir Program

LETY CHUA-TORREGOSA, MD
Ways & Means

Convention Highlights

DAY 0 . SATURDAY NOVEMBER 03, 2007

POGS Olympics

DAY 1 . SUNDAY NOVEMBER 04, 2007

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**Registration** (D Reg., PICC)
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	**Registration of Postgraduate Program**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**Convention Postgraduate Program** Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel (SPPH)
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	**PAGSPHIL, PSMFM, PSCM, OSP, PHISSAM, PSOPS** (Boracay Room, Davao Room, Leyte/Samar Room, Romblon/Mindoro Room)
12:00 - 1:30 PM	**Multicare Lunch Symposium**
1:30 - 4.00 PM	**PSREI, PSUOG, PSCM, OSP, PHISSAM, PSGE** (Boracay Room, Davao Room, Leyte/Samar Room, Romblon/Mindoro Room)
4:30 PM	**Opening Ceremonies** **Memorial Lecture and Awards** **Induction of New Diplomates** **Welcome Reception** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

DAY 2 . MONDAY NOVEMBER 05, 2007

7:00 AM - 12:00 NN 2.00 - 4:00 PM	**Registration** (D Reg., PICC)
7:00 AM	**Opening of Exhibits** (Forum 2, PICC Tent)
8:30 - 11:00 NN	**Plenary Lectures 1** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions 1** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12.00 - 2:00 PM	**Annual Business Meeting** (Reception Hall, PICC)
2:00 - 4:30 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions 1** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR 5, MR 6 - PICC)
5:30 PM	**Fellowship Night** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

DAY 3 . TUESDAY NOVEMBER 06, 2007

08:00 - 4:00 PM	**Registration**
7:30 AM - 2:00 PM	**ELECTION** (Delegate Lounge, PICC)
9:00 - 11:00 AM	**Plenary Sessions II** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions II** ***"Stump the Professors"*** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12:00 - 1:15 PM	**Simultaneous Industry Sponsored Symposia I** (MR C, MR D, MR E, MR 2 & 3, MR, 4, MR 5, MR 6)
1:30 - 4:00 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions II** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR5, MR 6, PICC)
4:30 - 6:30 PM	**Faculty Night** (By invitation)
6:00 PM	**Night Show**

DAY 4 . WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2007

08:00 - 12:00 NN	**Registration** (D. Reg., PICC)
09:00 - 11:00 AM	**Plenary Sessions III** (Reception Hall, PICC)
11:00 - 12:00 NN	**Special Sessions III** ***"Debate Hour"*** (Reception Hall, PICC)
12:00 - 1:15 PM	**Simultaneous Industry Sponsored Symposia II** (MR C, MR D, MR 4, MR 5)
1:30 - 3:30 PM	**Simultaneous Sessions III** (MR 2 & 3, MR 4, MR 5, MR 6, PICC)
4:30 PM	**Closing Ceremonies** (Grand Ballroom, SPPH)

Magistrates on buses hear cases of poor litigants

From page A1

buses purchased by the Supreme Court as part of its JOW program—parked in front of the Taytay Hall of Justice.

After only three hearings, Cabuang finally agreed on Oct. 19 to accept P15,000 from his neighbors as a settlement. He also decided to forgive them.

"They are also people who make mistakes. The important thing is they said they were sorry," says Cabuang, who admits to having initially promised to himself that he would not rest until his attackers were behind bars.

Supreme Court Assistant Administrator Nimfa Vilches says the JOW is one of the many judicial reform projects that the Supreme Court has initiated to address a host of major problems plaguing the administration of justice. These not only involve the prolonged resolution of cases but also such things as the filling of court vacancies made worse by inadequate pay and lack of security for judges.

Guatemalan experience

Vilches, vice chair of the JOW committee, says the program was patterned after one successfully implemented in Guatemala that a team of magistrates had examined for adoption in the Philippines. "The concept was to bring court services to the masses, and allow people—especially the poor and the marginalized—to have real access to justice," she says.

With funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the Supreme Court launched the program in 2004, initially acquiring a fully furnished bus that served as a courtroom and mediation center.

The bus has a room with tables for the judge, a stenographer, the lawyers and their clients. This is separate from a mediation room with similar facilities.

Vilches recalls that the initial months of the JOW were dedicated to resolving criminal cases involving minors in Metro Manila. "We did not bring the bus to the courts, but directly to the detention centers or jails where the minors were," she says.

'Family events'

The court sessions then became "family events." Parents attended and even participated in the hearings. "Through their involvement in their children's cases, the parents have a better understanding of the crimes and realize the ways in which they have neglected the young ones," Vilches said.

The initial hearings in December 2004 immediately led to the release of 60 children in a little over a week.

The bus roamed the metropolis to hear cases of minors until Republic Act No. 9344, or the Juvenile Justice Law, was passed in early 2006 to address the needs of those under 18 who have been accused of crimes.

Adult offenders

The mobile court then went to regular jails—this time, to help adult offenders whose cases had been dragging on for years.

Metro Manila judges were allowed to have a special date for these cases and hold the hearings within the jail premises. This, Vilches says, allowed the swift disposal of cases.

"After an initially successful start, the Supreme Court bought another bus," Vilches said. This was brought to Bohol, where eight to 12 circuit courts—which each served three to five municipalities—lacked judges.

A third bus was acquired for deployment to Agusan in Mindanao, but the executive judge there expressed concern about the safety of the vehicle. "We then thought of making use of the other mandate of the bus, which is mediation," Vilches said.

Mediators take over

She says that under the Supreme Court judicial reforms program, cases filed in court which are classified as "mediatable" are referred to the Philippine Mediation Center—composed of trained mediators from the Philippine Judicial Academy.

The mediators are given 30-60 days to facilitate resolution of regular cases and 120 days for family cases. Should the parties refuse or fail to come to a settlement, the case goes back to the judge for a full-blown trial.

"This is a very good program of the Supreme Court which sadly has not been implemented properly all over the country," Vilches says, explaining that most cities and municipalities lacked mediation centers and facilities.

This is where the JOW comes in, she says. The Supreme Court looked at places where the number of cases exceeded the judges' normal case loads, such as Rizal and Bulacan.

Bringing down backlog

Judge Wilfredo Timola says he inherited 3,600 cases when he took over the Taytay MTC in 2003. It is now down to 2,400, but still far from the ideal 100-200 cases.

"Even if we dispose of 60 or 70 cases each month, we would still get a hundred more to offset our accomplishments," Timola says. Lowering the court's case load is essential for a judge to come up with quality decisions, he says.

Timola also says that most of the cases before him can be mediated, such as land disputes and violations of the bouncing checks law.

Vilches says that delays in the resolution of cases are normally a result of the failure of witnesses and lawyers to appear in court, motions for postponements and predictable appeals. "Sadly, our culture also plays a big part in the filing of countless cases," she says.

An eye for an eye

Those who believe they are wronged seek vengeance at all cost—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

Vilches points out that successful mediation can solve 90 to 95 percent of pending cases, leaving only 5 percent for the judge to decide upon.

Mediator Basilio Rupisan Jr. says that from Sept. 24 to Oct. 17, his team had settled 70 out of the 187 cases referred by Judge Timola. "This figure is way bigger than the usual court disposal of 50 cases in a month. So far, we have settled all the cases given to us," Rupisan said.

He says that mediators in many cases have been able to help the parties decide on an amicable solution. "This is a small program but a giant step in restructuring the way we view life, the way we view conflict, the way we view our court, the way we view justice," Vilches said.

"Even if saying that those who have less in life should have more in law sounds corny and trite now, we believe that this still holds true for many people," she added.

Muntinlupa a paradise compared to cramped city jails

From page A1

RELIGIOUS PORTRAITS adorn the cell of ex-Mayor Antonio Sanchez of Calauan, Laguna, at the NBP's maximum security unit. He was convicted in 1995 of rape and double murder. Photo was taken in 1999. ERIK ARAZAS

MURDER CONVICT Claudio Teehankee Jr., a son of the late Supreme Court Chief Justice, is shown in this file photo in his cell at New Bilibid Prisons (NBP). He is serving a life term for the 1991 killing of Roland Chapman and Maureen Hultman. ERIK ARAZAS

former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist and self-styled Pete Sampras.

A tourist resort owner, Jalosjos is responsible for most of the niceties inside the rather drab prison—the paved walkways, a gymnasium equipped with a P4-million audio system and the mini-park.

He has ostensibly managed to make his jail time comfortable, staying in his homey 25-square-meter cell. There, he has held lavish birthday parties.

He is now enjoying "living-out" privileges and is allowed to freely roam around the entire Muntinlupa penal reservation after his two-life terms were commuted by President Macapagal-Arroyo in June.

Baking school

To complement his QS Coffee and Bakeshop, Jalosjos set up a baking school which trains inmates in the culinary art of whipping up sweets and other mouth-watering delicacies.

Adding to the little luxuries inside the prison complex are the livelihood center and the five-foot-deep "pond" built next to the cell of its owner, murder convict and former Rep. Jose Villarosa.

Practically a newcomer at the NBP, Villarosa was meted out the death penalty in March 2006 by a Quezon City court for murdering the two sons of his political rival, former Rep. Ricardo Quintos, over land and politics in Occidental Mindoro.

All-purpose swimming pool

According to NBP insiders, who requested anonymity for security reasons, the pond was originally a swimming pool, which was later converted into a tank for soaking *capiz* shells for his handicrafts.

With such facilities bankrolled by moneyed convicts, the maximum compound has become sort of a "paradise" for poor inmates like RJ, a murder convict who had served eight years at the cramped and muggy Caloocan City jail.

RJ said he did not mind if affluent convicts like Jalosjos or Villarosa lodged in their spacious "*kubol*" while he shared a dormitory with around 300 inmates and slept on a makeshift cot.

Such a condition, he said, was better than what he had in the smelly city jail swarming with clammy human assemblage.

'I like it better here'

"I like it better here because it is more spacious," RJ told the INQUIRER in Filipino. He could also wander around the prison complex if it got too crowded and hot inside his dormitory, he said.

He recalled that at one point during his stay at the Caloocan jail from 1994 to 2003, he shared with 200 inmates a small "*brigada*" (block) that could accommodate only a maximum of 120 people.

Due to the cramped prison conditions, getting enough sleep was a difficult feat among the inmates, who were most of the time reduced to a sitting position at nighttime.

"If one sweats, everybody sweats because we are squeezed into the jampacked dormitory. Sometimes, we fell asleep sitting or we lay on our side to minimize the space we were occupying," RJ said.

Chicken in crammed coop

Salvador, who is also a murder convict, felt like a chicken caged in packed coop when he was at the Quezon City Jail. He added that sometimes he would sit in the same spot the whole day worried that if he left for just a second, it would be taken over by another inmate.

He added that some of the prisoners, who were situated far from the toilet in the dormitory, relieved themselves in empty cans or cups instead of risking stepping on fellow inmates and drawing their ire.

He remembered getting boils one summer because of poor ventilation in his crammed cell.

Congestion at Caloocan jail

Based on the records of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, which oversees 41 jail facilities and secures 23,313 prisoners across Metro Manila, the Caloocan jail has the highest congestion rate with 1,407 percent as of September. Packed in the facility with a cell area of 355 square meters are 1,665 prisoners.

International standards allow 3 square meters per inmate—or 118 inmates for the Caloocan jail, said Supt. Serafin Barretto Jr., director of the BJMP-National Capital Region.

"Our No. 1 problem is really congestion but the bureau has been implementing certain policies that help remedy jail conditions," Barretto told the INQUIRER.

Since the BJMP-NCR strictly implemented its "no commitment order, no admission" protocol in July 2006, it has managed to unclog at least 13 percent of the population in the city jails.

In order to further decongest detention facilities, the bureau made sure that it firmly adhered to laws in releasing prisoners based on their good conduct time allowance or upon posting bail.

Pointing out the need for courts to fast-track cases, Barretto disclosed that the bureau was piloting a project at the Marikina City Jail that would allow trial via live teleconference between the inmate's lawyer and the judge.

It would be implemented before the year ends, said Barretto.

The bureau has also allocated the P200-million grant it received from Malacañang for the construction of new jail facilities for Caloocan and Quezon City. The latter has a congestion rate of 1,361 percent with 3,208 inmates cramped in the 707-sq.m. facility.

Overhaul justice system

"Building new facilities is just temporary remedy. What really needs fine-tuning is our justice system," he said.

The jail official highlighted a few observations on the latest BJMP figures. He said that a big bulk or 42 percent of the total inmates in Metro Manila committed drug-related crimes, while 19 percent had been accounted for petty crimes.

"The 42 percent should be in rehabilitation centers and should not be languishing in jails. They need treatment and our jails don't have sufficient facility for them," said Barretto.

He also said that those arrested or convicted of petty felonies, such as grave threats, malicious mischief and illegal gambling, should either be detained at home or be subject to community service.

The judiciary should consider on promoting and strengthening house or supervised detention, in which an offender would be confined to his residence under the tight watch of a jail personnel or the barangay leaders, Barretto said.

Barangay justice eases court work load

From page A1

teers known as barangay justice advocates (BJAs) have been saving countless litigants scarce time and money.

In the long run, implementing such a mediation and conciliation system in over 40,000 barangays would help ease court dockets, says lawyer Rowena Morales.

Morales is consulting director of the Barangay Justice Service System (BJSS) of the Gerry Roxas Foundation. Begun in 1998, the BJSS is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The program is administered by the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior and Local Government. It is supported by the Supreme Court, which provides training, and sees it as a major help in easing a backlog of court cases.

Currently, there is no BJSS program in Metro Manila. Priority is given to far-flung areas.

Cauldron of subcultures

"Metro Manila is a cauldron of subcultures. The barangays in the provinces need this kind of program more. Compared to the rural barangays, the barangays in Metro Manila are relatively well-off," Morales notes.

Since its inception in 1998, the GRF has trained thousands of BJAs all over the country, 10,074 of whom are concentrated in Mindanao.

But Morales estimates that the BJSS coverage is greater because of the "trickle-down effect" on nearby barangays. "We initially train a core group of trainors, who will then train volunteer residents to undertake actual dispute resolution or assist the parties in looking for options to resolve their dispute," she explains in a phone interview.

Program manager Edwin Golosino says difficult cases are referred to concerned agencies or courts.

Training

The BJAs are required to undergo training for eight days on the Katarungang Pambarangay law, basic counseling and mediation skills, alternative modes of dispute resolution, and the shari'a law.

To aid in settling family and inter-neighbor conflicts, the program includes a paralegal course on the Bill of Rights, family laws, Revised Penal Code, and laws on obligations and contracts.

Morales notes that a BJA need not be of high social standing within the community, nor a minimum educational requirement is needed. "A lot of people in the community are quite willing to do their part in maintaining the peace," she says. Most of the BJAs are ordinary residents, teachers, policemen and employees.

In Mindanao, for example, where the BJSS is currently based, most of the conflicts concern property, theft, slander, elopement and physical injuries.

Serving as buffer

Such is the effect of having the BJAs to serve as a buffer, Golosino says, that their mediation and arbitration skills help avert violence between families.

He, however, recognizes their limitations. They can only assist in the resolution of the civil liability of a dispute, not its criminal aspects.

"Crimes against the state, murder and rape will have to be handled by the country's police system," Golosino adds.

There is no monetary gain, but volunteers take pride in their task. "It's the community that 'authorizes' them because of the respect they have earned, some barangay officials even prefer being called. It's a kind of prestige for them," Golosino says.

WOW!
HOT BUY
APPLE TAG SPECIALS
We value your health
Eat Well
Spend Less

Robinsons Supermarket

WOW! Low, Low Prices!

November 2 - 15, 2007

Product	Details	Price
Ponkan Orange	#60	P 95 per kg.
Fragrant Pear		P108 per kg.
Kasim/Pigue	Supersavers	P135 per kg.
Beef Shortribs	Supersavers	P185 per kg.
Pineapple	Large	P 45 per pc.
Iceberg Lettuce		P145 per kg.
Bell Pepper	Red	P162 per kg.
Celery		P 90 per kg.
Salmon Steak	Norwegian	P390 per kg.
Live Hito		P 90 per kg.
Chicken Drumstick	SMFI	P125 per kg.
Chicken Breast Fillet	SMFI	P155 per kg.
Maggi	Sinigang Mix (20g)	P 8.25 per pc.
Maggi	Sinigang (40g)	P 14.65 per pc.
Welch's	Purple Grape (64oz)	P200 per pc.
Energizer	Alkaline BP4 AA	P141 per pack
Energizer	Alkaline BP2 AAA	P 80 per pack
Century Tuna	Chunks in Water (184g)	P28.70 per pc.
Sustagen Kid	Choco (1kg) Free Oishi Choco Flakes (180g)	P442.75 per pc.
Toblerone	Milk Mini (50g)	P 33.50 per pc.
San Mig Coffee	Sugar Free Original 10's (7g)	P 40.80 per pack
Propel	Gala Apple (500ml)	P 14.50 per pc.
Mc Cormick	Gravy Chicken (28g)	P 15.75 per pc.
San Mig Coffee	Premium Coffee (40g)	P 26.75 per pc.
Sting Gold	Blast Energy Drink (250ml)	P 17 per pc.
Mc Cormick	Gravy Mushroom (25g)	P 16.75 per pc.
Argentina	Corned Beef (175g)	P24.75 per pc.
Sustagen Kid	Vanilla (1kg) Free Oishi Choco Flakes (180g)	P421.25 per pc.
Toblerone	Bitter Sweet (100g)	P63.75 per pc.
Nestle	Mango Yogurt (125g)	P30.50 per pc.
Dari Creme Blends	Orange / Strawberry (100g)	P 21.50 per pc.
Marby	Thick Sandwich Cuts	P 40 per pack
Herran	Burger Rolls	P18 per pack
CDO	Bibbo Cheesedog (1kg.)	P148 per pack
Pampanga's Best	Fatless Tocino (480g) (Not Available in Naga)	P 91 per pack
PH Care	Feminine wash Coolwind (60ml)	P 41.25 per pc.
PH Care	Feminine wash Pink Passion (250ml)	P114 per pc.
Nivea	Whitening Lotion (150ml)	P130 per pc.
Nivea	Whitening Lotion (250ml)	P194 per pc.
Kleenex	Unscented Facial Tissue (190 pulls)	P 69.75 per pack
Joy	Hi-Save Bathroom Tissue 2ply (12's)	P99.75 per pack
Vernel	Floral Fresh Refill (1 Liter)	P 98.75 per pc.
Vernel	Tender Touch Refill (1 Liter)	P 98.75 per pc.

APPLE TAG SPECIALS

Product	Details	Price
Jolly	Tropical Fruit Cocktail (850g)	P43
Dutchmill	Orange (180ml)	P13.85
Jolly	Corn Oil (2 Liters)	P188.40
Tang	Orange (500g)	P 38
Belvita	Choco Creme Slug (57g)	P 7.40
Anlene	Gold Plain (180g)	P 97.25

Get Discounts Daily on Healthy Choices

http://www.robinsons-supermarket.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3807 Series of 2007.

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

DID YOU KNOW

IN 2005, five areas along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City were among the top most accident-prone spots in Metro Manila. A total of 11 accidents led to deaths happening on the avenue during the period, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Road Safety Unit. Quezon City, on the other hand, also recorded the most number of accidents with fatalities in 2005, accounting for 109 cases of the total 324 incidents (34 percent).

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

PET MEMORIAL

All dogs (and cats) can go to heaven in style

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THANKS TO THE PHILIPPINE Animal Welfare Society, dog and cat owners can honor the memory of their departed pets in style.

In Katipunan Valley, Loyola Heights in Quezon City, part of a 5,000-sq m lot owned by the Manila Electric Co. has been turned into a burial ground for pets. The compound also houses the animal rehabilitation center of the organization.

Anna Cabrera, PAWS' program director, said she prefers the term "pet memorial" to pet cemetery.

"We never thought of this place as a burial ground," Cabrera told the INQUIRER. "Initially, we just wanted to accommodate pet owners who live in condominium units or apartment buildings who have no lots of their own to bury their dead pets."

Wall of remembrance

Apart from a common grave site where the animals are buried, there is a memorial wall on which is inscribed, "Gone but not forgotten." Underneath the words are gray and ecru tiles on which grief-stricken pet owners leave a message for their dead pets. There are also ledges on which they can place lighted candles or pictures of their departed furry friends.

Cabrera said that since the soft opening of the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center in 2001, people have been asking about a place where they could give their pets a proper burial.

"We could not refuse them," Cabrera said, adding that they knew many do not just "dump" the bodies of their beloved pets that had given them unconditional affection.

FAITHFUL COMPANION, LOYAL FRIEND
L STER
R EXCELI
UG 15
MARCH 6 20

THE QUEZON City-based Philippine Animal Welfare Society has set aside a burial lot for dogs and cats within their compound.
JOAN BONDOC.

She recalled that some people even had tombstones made for their pets, and PAWS accommodated them because it 'would have been awkward and cruel to turn them away.

Pet owners are asked to make a minimum donation of P500 to the organization to cover the cost of digging a grave and the holding of a short funeral service.

For those who want to leave an engraved message on the memorial wall which was inaugurated earlier this month, they have to pay P2,000 per tile.

According to Cabrera, the proceeds from the wall will go to the shelter's operations.

"They (pet owners) know this is a fundraising effort and they are making a donation to the shelter," she explained.

Unconditional love

"It's a way for them to remember their pets and give back what their pets had given them: Unconditional love and loyalty for which they never asked for anything in return," Cabrera stressed.

Some of the tiles on the memorial wall were already filled up when the INQUIRER visited the pet memorial.

In one, Oscar thanked Fifi, his cat, "whose companionship helped me through one of the most difficult periods of my life."

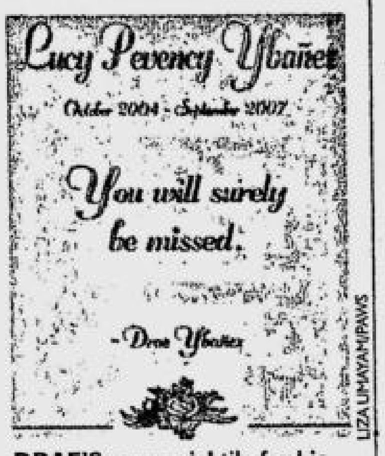
In another, Oscar and Lana expressed their gratitude to their pet cat, Socks, for saving their son's life. One tile contained the words: "Taco, our prince, you will be missed." (There was no indication what kind of animal Taco was.)

There was also a message from a family who described their dogs Soda, Kitkat, and Biny as the light of their lives.

ALL DOGS/ A18

He loved Lucy

By Candy Palenzuela-Dalizon
Contributor



DRAE'S memorial tile for his beloved black Labrador

HIS DOG WAS NAMED AFTER Lucy Pevensie, a major character from C.S. Lewis's well-loved "The Chronicles of Narnia." The youngest of the four Pevensie children, and the first to find the entrance to Narnia in the book "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," part of the Narnia series, Lucy was loved by everybody.

Just like Lucy Pevensie, Philippine Idol finalist Drae Ybañez' dog, a black Labrador, was also well-loved.

The Ybañez' family's favorite pet died only a few months back, allegedly a poison victim. The circumstances surrounding her death remains a mystery to Drae.

Drae bought Lucy, and another Labrador named Luther Blitz, for his brother. "Since my nieces had just seen the movie version of 'The Lion ...' at that time, they named my dog after Lucy Pevensie," Drae said.

"Technically, Lucy is my brother's dog but she since she stayed with me in my parents' house for the first half of her life, I consider her my very own" he added.

Transformation

Drae still remembers the day Lucy died. He noticed that Lucy had transformed from an active dog, always jumping and running, to a listless canine.

Worried about Lucy's deteriorating health, Drae decided to take Lucy to a veterinarian's clinic where the dog was confined overnight. Lucy died the next day after vomiting blood the night before.

"Lucy even tried to lift her head to look at me for the last time. She was dehydrated and the vet had a hard time putting in the IV," Drae related.

Memories

Drae has fond memories of Lucy. "She was always excited to see me, barking all the time, jumping up and down and wiggling her tail vigorously. When I come close she would quickly lie on her back and move her entire body, waiting for me to give her stomach rub," he said.

Before he bought a memorial tile from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Lucy was buried in front of Drae's house. The pet lover learned about the memorial project from Rich Ilustre, director of "Philippine Idol" and "Shall We Dance," two popular television shows.

"I haven't visited Lucy's memorial tile yet but I'm planning to do so soon. At the same time I can help clean up the animal shelter," Drae said.

Mob prevents vote count in QC barangay

Supporters of 7 poll bets 'outraged' by alleged irregularities

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE COUNTING OF VOTES CAST FOR CANDIDATES in the recent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections was halted in a Quezon City school Wednesday night as some 300 supporters of seven candidates for barangay captain, alleging instances of poll fraud, barged inside the classrooms and seized several certificates of canvass (COCs) and other election paraphernalia from members of the board of tellers.

Teachers at the Payatas Elementary School in Ilang-ilang St., Barangay Payatas A, were caught off guard when an unruly crowd snatched from them several COC copies, tally sheets, and election returns and proceeded to burn the materials.

P03 Jun Fortunato of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said the crowd was led by seven of 13 contenders for barangay chair in the area.

He identified the alleged leaders as Emerita Pecson, Aida Sipagan, Romeo de la Cruz, Jose Silua, Delfin Barquilla, Roger Marquez and Frejocyn Valiente.

Reynaldo Ongnia, the barangay's executive officer, however, said there were only around 100 supporters who entered the school premises. The others, he added, were just onlookers.

Ongnia also stressed that the candidates did not enter the school, although some of them were present when the crowd was still gathering outside.

He added that the crowd was reportedly outraged by reports that the incumbent chair, Rose Dadulo, was about to be proclaimed winner because of landslide victories in most precincts. The supporters of the other candidates accused Dadulo of poll fraud. Reached for comment, Dadulo said the allegations were "stupid."

Fortunato, however, told the INQUIRER that the original copies of the COCs had already been sent to the Commission on Elections. Ongnia said they would await instructions from the Comelec before they proceed with the counting of votes.

Fiesta, picnic atmosphere at cemeteries in Metro Manila

By DJ Yap, Allison W. Lopez, Julie M. Aurelio, Tina G. Santos and Kenneth del Rosario

FIESTA OR CARNIVAL TIME?

At cemeteries in the Metro yesterday, it was a mixture of both.

No thanks to vendors selling all sorts of merchandise from flowers and candles to dyed chicks and toy centipedes, a fiesta-like atmosphere prevailed at the Manila South Cemetery on the day meant to remember the dearly departed.

Enterprising people hawked cotton candy and Hello Kitty balloons. Others offered roasted peanuts and pizza, while a few peddled ice cream in bicycle carts.

At least one firm thought it the perfect occasion to advertise phone subscription plans to the unsuspecting multitude.

In a scene far removed from the Roman Catholic Church's idea of maintaining the reverence of All Saints' Day yesterday, throngs of cemetery visitors were greeted by sellers and their products every step of the way.

On Wednesday, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the people should not stray from the main point of the celebration, which was reverence for the dead.

Mood

But it seemed the mood yesterday was one of commerce.

From the corner of J.P. Rizal Street and South Avenue toward the entrance of the 25-ha cemetery in Makati City, vendors filled the sidewalks, greeting thousands who visited their departed loved ones.

As of mid-day yesterday, as many as 70,000 people were in the cemetery based on an estimate by the administrator, Tom Torres.

He said he expected the crowd to peak at 100,000 from mid-afternoon until well into the evening, as many of the visitors had intentions of staying overnight.

Elements of the Manila Police District (the cemetery, though based in Makati, is run by the Manila government) ran patrols, as did a group of Boy Scouts, Red Cross volunteers and Makati's own rescue workers. A pair of K9 units also stood guard.

Senior Insp. Renato Sadaran of the MPD Station 6 said the situation was generally peaceful with no violence reported as of early afternoon.

Stricter security measures failed to dampen the festive mood at the Manila North Cemetery.

Banned items

Though stainless steel forks, ceramic plates and bottled drinks have been banned from the cemetery, Manila Police District director, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, said families still celebrated the religious holiday through prayers, picnics and family reunions.

Rosales said the 54-hectare North Cemetery in Sta. Cruz, the largest in the country, had around 400,000 people in the premises at any given time during its peak days, while a total of 2-3 million were expected to visit.

LESS jostling and a quiet setting for people visiting their loved ones at the St. Peter's Church Repository of the Apostles along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

Among the prominent persons buried at the North Cemetery are Presidents Ramon Magsaysay, Sergio Osmeña and Manuel Roxas; and movie star Fernando Poe Jr.

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr., who arrived around 10:20

FIESTA/ A18

Repair work on other Valenzuela bridge starts next week

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AFTER REOPENING THE NEW and improved Tullahan Bridge to traffic recently, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is set to rebuild another major infrastructure in Valenzuela City.

Angelito Twano, DPWH National Capital Region assistant director, said the rehabilitation of the Tullahan-Ugong Bridge would begin early next week.

The DPWH official said the project would cost an estimated P30 million. The bridge is smaller than Tullahan Bridge, where an average number of 20,000 vehicles pass every day.

Twaño said cracks found at Tullahan Bridge's approaches were only "normal."

"The cracks found were only alligator cracks," he explained, adding that these were discovered in a small area of the approaches where water seeped underneath the asphalt.

The DPWH official said the engineers were able to temporarily correct the defect through the application of cold mix asphalt on Wednesday.

The DPWH will conduct square hauling operations on Monday night at the approaches to determine where the water is coming from.

Square hauling entails the use of a square cutter in getting to the upper portion of the asphalt to determine the saturated portion of the soil.

"This is quite easy and will take only an hour or so. We would not have to close the bridge to traffic while doing it," Twaño said.

All dogs (and cats) can go . . .

From page A17

Tata, also known as PAWS president Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco, paid tribute to her departed cats by inscribing on one tile the words, "All our meow-meows, Always loved …" There was another tile two ledges below for her dogs. "All our bow-wows, Always loved …" the message on the second tile read.

There is a tile in honor of Hollis, a dog who traveled from New York to Manila and to Heaven from May 2004 to March 2006. "Your memories will stay in my heart," was Mama Medy's message for her pet.

Philippine Idol finalist, Drae Ybañez, had the words, "You will surely be missed," on the tile he took out for his dog, Lucy Pevensie.

IN LOVING MEMORY
Tingerkittella
1988-2002
et al.
ing me and loving me
Rochelle

MEMORIAL tiles beside cherished photographs of beloved pets at the PAWS cemetery.
LIZA UMAYAM/PAWS

Dedications

There were also dedications on other tiles to Sasha who was described as a doctor dog and Muffin, "Alya's beloved dog" for whom "life was short but sweet."

Cabrera said that the generous donations from the pet owners are vital to the PARC's operations. They spend a whopping P75,000 every month looking after 36 dogs and 31 cats housed at the PAWS shelter.

The cost of owning a memorial tile is minimal compared to the price of having a pet cremated which is pegged at P5,000.

"We do not offer cremation but there is a veterinarian in Laguna to whom we usually refer pet owners who want to avail of the service," Cabrera said.

Dr. Manny Reyes picks up the deceased pet, documents the entire process through photographs and brings back the urn bearing the animal's ashes to its owner.

Cabrera said the pet memorial will be open until today from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for those who wish to offer flowers and light candles for their departed pals.

"We are usually closed on Sundays and holidays. We are opening our doors this time to allow the pet owners to freely visit their pets," she said.

Although no one knows for sure whether all dogs (and cats) go to heaven, their owners, with PAWS' help, can send them off with their love. And in style, too.

Fiesta, picnic atmosphere . . .

From page A17

a.m. to inspect the area, described the peace and order situation as "generally peaceful."

Late Wednesday evening, former President Joseph Estrada stood by the grave of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., his bosom buddy.

The funeral wreath he offered at Poe's tomb at the Manila North Cemetery night carried the message "To my President FPJ, from Erap."

"I still believe he (Poe) would have been the best president of this country," said Estrada, who was recently pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo after he was convicted of plunder.

"I feel good, I feel great because finally I was able to visit my good friend," he added.

Welcome

Supporters, screaming "Erap, Erap, Erap *pa rin*" gave their idol a frenzied welcome—under tight security by his bodyguards and Manila policemen—at the cemetery when he arrived at around 8:45 p.m.

Vehicles were banned inside the sprawling graveyard but Estrada's convoy was allowed to bring the former president to the Poe's family plot at the extreme eastern part of the cemetery.

As he stepped out of his vehicle, he headed for Poe's mausoleum where he was met by Poe's relatives, led by the late actor's sister, Elizabeth.

Estrada had been expected at the cemetery since 3 p.m. of Wednesday. Angel Gonong, Estrada's media liaison officer, said the former president was already on his way when he was caught in a traffic jam somewhere in Quezon City.

"He changed his mind and decided to go back to San Juan and just return at 9 p.m. to avoid the traffic," Gonong said.

At the 114 ha Manila Memorial Park (MMP) in Parañaque City, visitors had already camped out as as early as Wednesday night in order to avoid the crowds on All Saints Day.

"Many of them don't want to be bothered by the Nov. 1 crowd, so others came as early as Wednesday," said Denver Cruz of the Society of Individuals in Radio and Civic Communications.

The radio group was one of many "force multipliers" that the police employed to be able to keep an eye on the MMP and its nearby counterpart, the Loyola Memorial Park.

Apart from traffic enforcers and emergency response teams administering first aid, Boy Scouts were also tasked to patrol the area and assist families looking for their relatives' tombs.

The MMP has over 78,000 "tenants" and quite a handful of notable "occupants" like former senator Benigno Aquino Jr., actors Pugo, Rico Yan, and Miko Sotto, boxer Flash Elorde, and the late Sen. Robert Barbers.

Parañaque City police chief Supt Ronald Estilles said he expected 400,000 visitors at the most to troop to the MMP, the largest cemetery in southern Metro Manila.

Short stay

Meanwhile, in Bagbag cemetery, Novaliches, Quezon City, the setup prevented visitors from staying for longer periods of time. People left quickly after lighting candles and saying their prayers because they had nowhere to seat, said Police Insp. Jose Mercado.

People usually stay for only 30 minutes as the apartment-type niches had no roof and chairs for visitors, he added. About 3000 to 4000 persons visit the cemetery at any given time, he added.

Roberto Lumabagbas, leader of the Red Cross volunteers' team at the cemetery said there were no major incidents that needed their attention.

Meanwhile, at the Holy Cross Cemetery, also in Novaliches, police told the INQUIRER that several people tried to sneak in liquor by passing it off as as iced tea.

More than two dozen sets of playing cards were also confiscated by roving police teams. Also confiscated were bottles of liquor, knives, hammers, and pairs of scissors.

Visitors

Boying de los Reyes, acting OIC of the Holy Cross Cemetery, said some 100,000 people had visited the site since people had been streaming in since Saturday.

Red Cross volunteers said also said there were no major incidents in need of their immediate attention. Hundreds of people also trooped to the Repository of the Apostles, an ossuary located under the St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue, also in Quezon City.

In a landscaped environment, some 800 people visited the cremated remains of their loved ones.

According to Arturo F. Labrador, head of the maintenance crew, there was no need to deploy policemen in the area since the crowd was generally smaller and "well behaved."

How can we protect them?
- Jaime Cardinal Sin
Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER
www.inquirer.net

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

21 convicted of '04 Madrid bombings

Spain concludes its version of 9/11, but alleged mastermind is acquitted

MADRID—A SPANISH COURT WEDNESDAY convicted 21 people of involvement in the 2004 Madrid train bombings, but acquitted an Egyptian accused of helping mastermind the al-Qaida-inspired attack that claimed nearly 200 lives.

The early morning bombings on four packed commuter trains on March 11, 2004 were the deadliest terror attacks in the West since the Sept. 11, 2001 strikes against the United States.

The chief judge of the special antiterrorist court, Javier Gomez Bermudez, handed out the heaviest sentences to two Moroccans—Jamal Zougam and Othman el-Gnaoui—and a Spaniard, Jose Emilio Suarez Trashorras.

They each received around 40,000 years in prison, although under Spanish law the maximum they can spend behind bars is 40 years.

Zougam placed explosives aboard one of the four targeted trains, while Trashorras and El-Gnaoui were condemned respectively for supplying and transporting the explosives.

One of the alleged organizers of the attacks, Rabei Osman Sayed Ahmed, also known as "Mohammed the Egyptian," was acquitted on all charges.

He burst into tears and then kneeled to pray when the decision was announced, Italy's ANSA news agency reported from Milan, where he is serving an eight-year prison sentence for belonging to a terrorist group.

"Acquitted, did you see?" the Egyptian said as police officers led him back to his jail cell.

A total of 28 defendants were on trial—19 mostly North Africans Arabs living in Spain and nine Spaniards charged with providing the explosives used in the bombings.

Ahmed was one of seven acquitted. The remaining 18 received sentences of between three and 18 years for crimes ranging from the use of explosives to membership in a terrorist group.

The judge sentenced the defendants to a total of 120,075 years in prison, far less than the 311,865 years sought by the prosecution.

Lawyers for the convicted now have five days to announce whether or not they intend to appeal the verdicts to Spain's Supreme Court.

"Today justice was done and we must now look to the future," Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said.

But the head of an association for families of the victims condemned the verdicts.

"We are going to appeal this mistake," said Pilar Manjon, who lost her 20-year-old son in the attacks. "I don't like to see killers walking free."

Other relatives also expressed disappointment.

"There are far too few guilty verdicts for such a horrible crime," said Maria Jose Guttierez, a Spaniard who lost her sister in the bombings.

Gomez Bermudez announced compensation for the victims and their families of between 30,000 and 1.5 million euros ($43,000 and $2.1 million).

Tight security was in force for the verdict, with dozens of armed police wearing bulletproof vests surrounding the court in the west of the capital. An armored car with a machine gun was also parked outside the building, as a helicopter hovered overhead.

During the four-month trial which wrapped up on July 2, all of the accused proclaimed their innocence and denied having any link to radical Islam or al-Qaida.

But several were contradicted by witnesses who said they saw them leaving rucksacks on the trains on the day of the bombings or by the discovery of traces of their DNA at key sites of the attacks.

Most of the accused said they knew some of seven suspected masterminds of the attacks who blew themselves up at a suburban Madrid apartment three weeks after the bombings as police closed in.

Zougam was one of the first suspects to be arrested. Police were able to trace the SIM card of a mobile phone that was attached to one of the train bombs that did not explode to a shop run by the Moroccan.

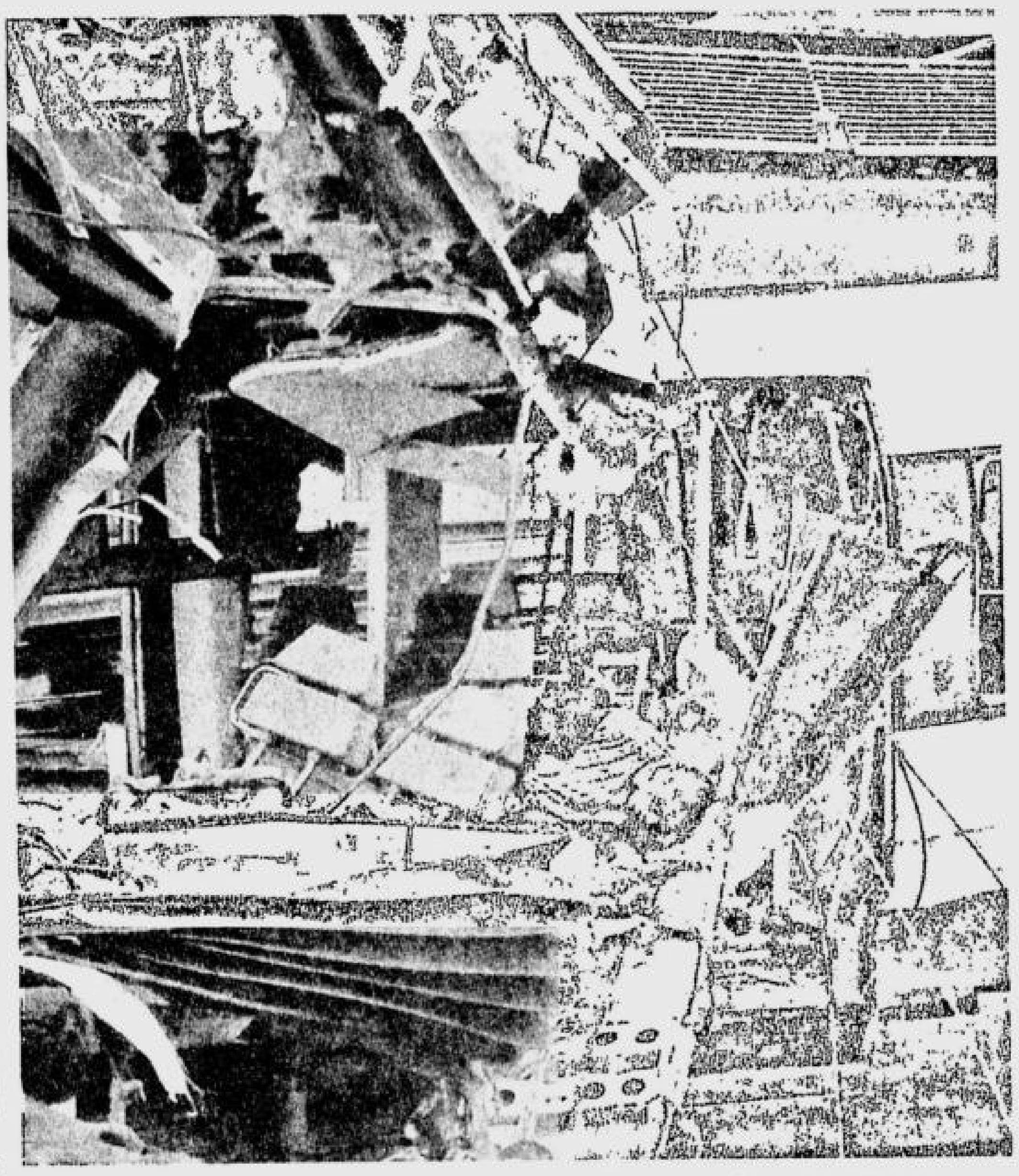
The string of 10 bombs exploded on commuter trains on March 11, 2004, leaving bodies and limbs scattered on railway tracks. A total of 191 people from 13 countries were killed and 1,841 others injured.

Evidence quickly began to point to Islamic radicals angered over Madrid's decision to send troops to back the US-led war in Iraq.

The attack was claimed later that day by the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The opposition Socialists scored a surprise victory in a general election three days after the bombings.

Zapatero promptly fulfilled a campaign promise to withdraw Spain's roughly 1,300 troops from Iraq. *AFP*



A VICTIM of Madrid's train bombings is seen following a bomb blast at Madrid's Atocha station in this March 11, 2004 photo. A Spanish court on Oct. 31 found 21 people guilty of involvement in the bombings, Europe's deadliest al-Qaida inspired attack, which killed 191 people and injured 1,800. REUTERS

Chronology of major events

- **March 11, 2004:** Ten backpack bombs explode on four morning rush-hour commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people and injuring more than 1,800. Hours later, police find a van with detonators and a cassette tape with verses from the Koran at a train station through which all of the bombed trains had passed.
- **March 12, 2004:** Police deactivate a bomb hidden in a backpack found on one of the trains. The cell phone rigged to be used as a detonator in the bomb—a system also used in the other bombs—is their first big break in the case.
- **March 13, 2004:** Police make their first arrests, including a Moroccan-born man who sold the prepaid cards used in the cell phone-detonators. Al-Qaida in Europe claims responsibility for the bombings in a video found near a Madrid mosque. An Arabic-speaking man with his face covered says in the video they were revenge for the Spanish troop presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **March 14, 2004:** Socialists unseat ruling conservatives in a previously scheduled general election. The conservatives had blamed the attacks on the armed Basque separatist group ETA, even as evidence of Islamic involvement emerged. Weeks later, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero withdraws Spain's troops from Iraq.
- **March 26, 2004:** Police find detonators, traces of dynamite and fingerprints inside a rural cottage where police suspect the bombs were made.
- **April 3, 2004:** Seven suspects in the train bombings blow themselves up as police move in to arrest them in an apartment outside Madrid. Police describe them as ringleaders of the attacks. One suspect escapes but is eventually caught in Serbia. A special forces agent dies in the blast at the apartment.
- **April 11, 2006:** Twenty-nine people are indicted over the attacks: 15 Moroccans, nine Spaniards, two Syrians, one Egyptian, one Algerian and one Lebanese.
- **Nov. 6, 2006:** Prosecutors seek jail terms of more than 38,000 years for each of seven top suspects.
- **Feb. 15, 2007:** Trial starts at a heavily guarded courthouse in Madrid. Over the course of five months of testimony, more than 300 witnesses and 70 experts take the stand. Prosecutors eventually drop charges against one suspect, reducing the total number of defendants to 28. They also change the sentences they are seeking for several suspects. In the end, they request terms of more than 38,000 years each for eight men accused of being masterminds, material participants or key accomplices. The trial ends July 2.
- **Oct. 31:** Twenty-one people are convicted. Three of the main suspects are found guilty of mass murder and given sentences ranging from 34,000 to 43,000 years. Seven are acquitted, including Rabei Osman, an Egyptian who prosecutors alleged was the brains behind the Madrid plot.

Bill passed condemning Franco's dictatorship

MADRID—SPANISH LAWMAKERS passed a bill to make symbolic amends to victims of the Spanish Civil War and the ensuing dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco—an unprecedented bid to address a dark chapter of Spanish history that has been largely taboo.

Conservative critics of the legislation complained angrily that the bill, sponsored by Spain's Socialist government, digs unnecessarily at old wounds and does away with a spirit of reconciliation that accompanied the transition to democracy after the dictator died in 1975.

The vote in Spain's lower house of Parliament Wednesday formally denounces Franco's regime, mandates that local governments fund efforts to unearth mass graves from the 1936-39 Civil War, orders the removal of all Franco-era symbols from streets and buildings, and declares "illegitimate" summary military trials that led to the execution or imprisonment of thousands of the general's enemies.

It pays tribute to all victims of the war, however, including Roman Catholic clergy and others executed by militia loyal to the elected, leftist Republican government that Franco rose up against in 1936.

The legislation, known as the "Law of Historical Memory," must still pass the Senate—considered a formality.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose own grandfather was among the tens of thousands of people executed by Franco's forces, had made the legislation a priority of his term in office and cobbled together an agreement between his ruling Socialists and several smaller parties.

The legislation passed despite the fierce objections of Zapatero's conservative opponents, who accused him of being driven by vengeance to rekindle national acrimony doused during Spain's transition to democracy. The culmination was approval of a democratic constitution in 1978.

The process featured an unspoken pact among parties to put the suffering of the war years behind them in the interest of rebuilding. No war crimes trials were held.

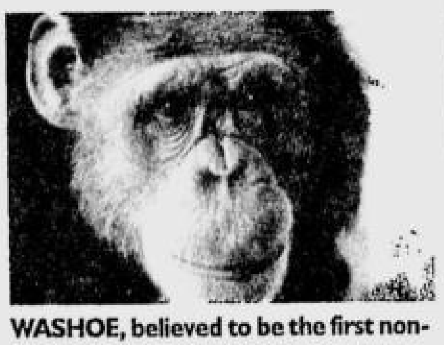
Other countries that lived through war-time atrocities did hold trials—junta-era Argentina, or post-Nazi Germany, for instance. But for the most Spain is now trying to atone for the past by simply honoring victims, without punishing anyone. *AP*

Washoe, a chimpanzee of many words, dies at 42

SHE SPENT HER EARLY YEARS playing in the backyard of a small house in Reno, Nev., learning American Sign Language from the scientists who adopted her, and by age 5 she had mastered enough signs to capture the world's attention and set off a debate over nonhuman primates' ability to learn human language that continues to this day.

But on Tuesday night, Washoe, a chimpanzee born in West Africa, died at age 42 after a short illness, said Mary Lee Jensvold, assistant director of the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, where Washoe had lived and learned for more than two decades.

Scientists had tried without success to teach nonhuman primates to imitate vocal sounds when R. Allen Gardner and Beatrix T. Gardner, cognitive researchers, adopted the 10-month-old chimp from military scientists in 1966. The Gardners, skeptical that other primates could adequately speak human words, taught Washoe American Sign Language, encouraging her gestures until she made signs that were reliably understandable.



WASHOE, believed to be the first nonhuman to acquire human language. AP

One claim, that Washoe signed "water" and "bird" upon seeing a swan "was like getting an SOS from outer space," the Harvard psychologist Roger Brown said at the time.

Many scientists still are not convinced. But all agree that Washoe, named for the county in Nevada where she spent her early years, prompted all the excitement and debate, even if she did not answer all the questions her abilities raised. *NYT*

Japan ends 'war on terror' mission

TOKYO—JAPAN ON THURSDAY ORdered home ships engaged on a refueling mission in the Indian Ocean, halting the close US ally's main role in the "war on terror" due to domestic opposition.

Japan, which has been officially pacifist since the end of World War II, has supplied fuel to US and other forces operating in Afghanistan under legislation first passed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

But the government failed to extend the mission as the main opposition party, which controls one house of parliament, has vowed that Japan should not take part in "American wars."

Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba issued orders at 3 p.m. (0600 GMT) for Japan's two ships in the Indian Ocean—the destroyer Kirisame and the supply ship Tokiwa—to return to Japan.

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, whose predecessor quit in September in part due to his failure to prolong the deployment, vowed to "do my utmost for the swift passage" of new legislation to resume the operation.

"Terrorism is a challenge against free and open societies. The war on terrorism affects our national interests," Fukuda said in a statement.

"It is surely necessary for us to continue refueling activities in order to fulfill our responsibilities in solidarity with the international community which is trying to eradicate terrorism," he said.

But public opinion on the mission is sharply divided in Japan, whose military has not fired a shot in combat since the United States imposed a pacifist constitution after World War II.

Coalition nations had tried for weeks with no success to persuade the opposition to change its mind.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer voiced "concern" about Japan's move.

"Defeating terrorists is one of the highest security challenges the world faces. It is a global challenge and combating terrorism is a collective responsibility," Downer said.

However, criticism has been growing of military operations across nations taking part in the deadly campaign against remnants of Afghanistan's extremist Taliban regime.

The German parliament last month extended the country's troop deployment despite waning public support.

But Japan is in a unique political situation. The opposition in July won control of one house of parliament on a backlash over a raft of scandals under the government of then prime minister Shinzo Abe.

Main opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa—ironically a longtime proponent of an active military role for Japan—has vowed to fight Fukuda on his legislative priorities until he calls early general elections.

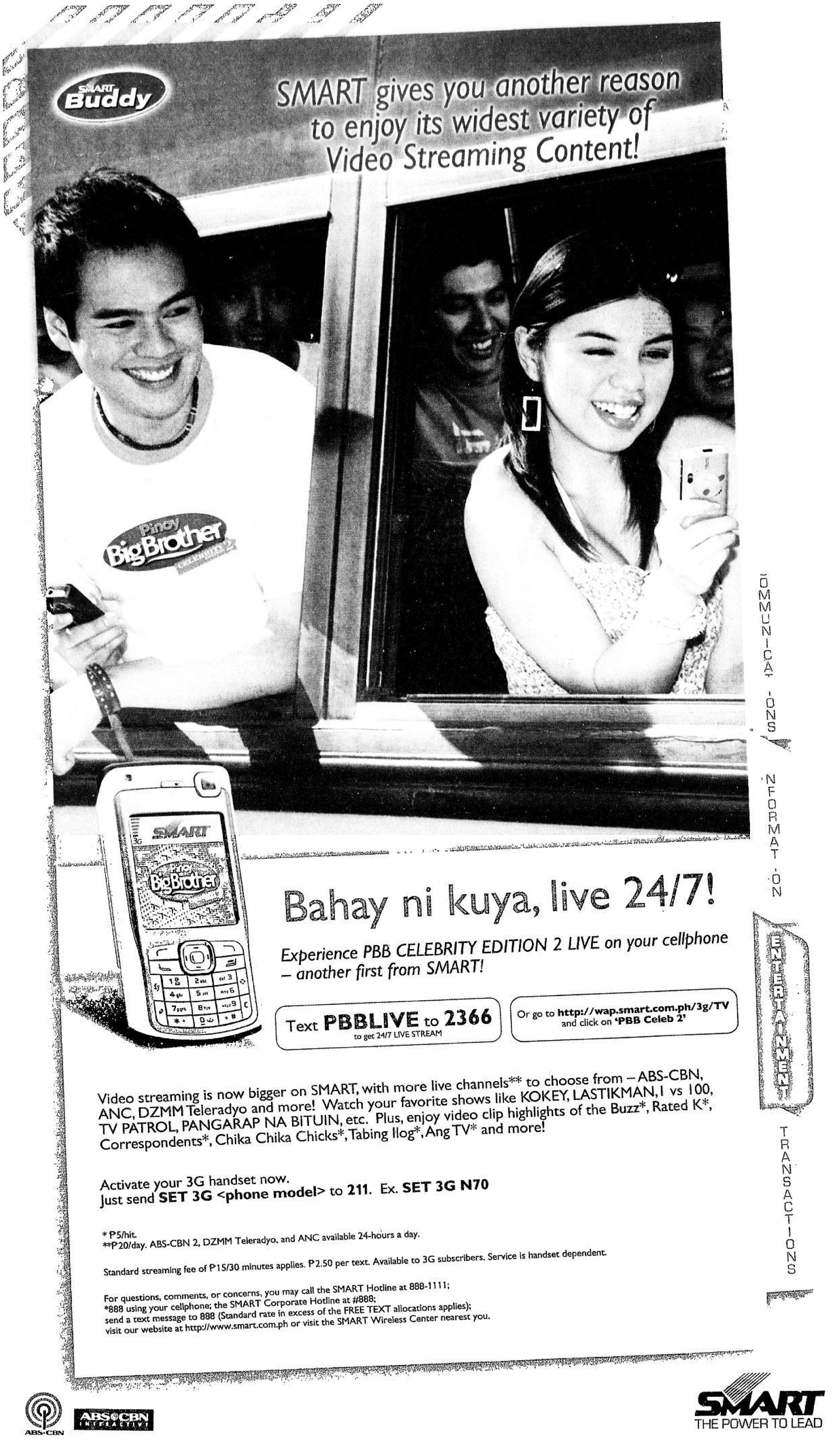
US Ambassador Thomas Schieffer at one point warned that Ozawa's intransigence could harm the two countries' alliance, although Washington later softened its tone.

Ozawa's Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in turn accused the government of politicizing the dispute.

"The battleships are coming home and they want to put the blame on the DPJ. This is an Afghan trap to make the DPJ look evil," said Kenji Yamaoka, the party's parliamentary affairs chief.

The Indian Ocean mission at the time was groundbreaking for Japan, although it later went a step further and sent troops, since withdrawn, on a noncombat reconstruction mission to Iraq.

Eager to show it remains committed to the "war on terror," Japan said it would look at stepping up aid to Afghanistan and possibly Pakistan, a frontline US ally in the war. *AFP*


SMART Buddy
Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition 2
SMART
3G
Big Brother

SMART gives you another reason to enjoy its widest variety of Video Streaming Content!

Bahay ni kuya, live 24/7!

Experience PBB CELEBRITY EDITION 2 LIVE on your cellphone – another first from SMART!

Text **PBBLIVE** to **2366**
to get 24/7 LIVE STREAM

Or go to **http://wap.smart.com.ph/3g/TV** and click on **'PBB Celeb 2'**

Video streaming is now bigger on SMART, with more live channels** to choose from – ABS-CBN, ANC, DZMM Teleradyo and more! Watch your favorite shows like KOKEY, LASTIKMAN, I vs 100, TV PATROL, PANGARAP NA BITUIN, etc. Plus, enjoy video clip highlights of the Buzz*, Rated K*, Correspondents*, Chika Chika Chicks*, Tabing Ilog*, Ang TV* and more!

Activate your 3G handset now.
Just send **SET 3G <phone model>** to **211**. Ex. **SET 3G N70**

* ₱5/hit.
**₱20/day. ABS-CBN 2, DZMM Teleradyo, and ANC available 24-hours a day.

Standard streaming fee of ₱15/30 minutes applies. ₱2.50 per text. Available to 3G subscribers. Service is handset dependent.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111;
*888 using your cellphone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888;
send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocations applies);
visit our website at http://www.smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

COMMUNICATIONS

INFORMATION

ENTERTAINMENT

TRANSACTIONS

ABS-CBN

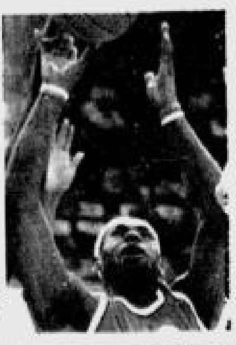
ABS-CBN INTERACTIVE

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

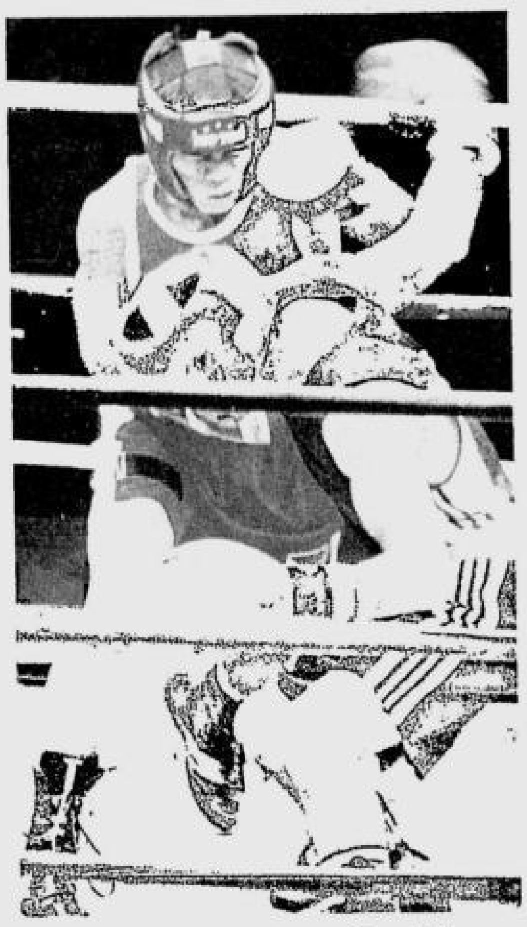
WHAT'S INSIDE
World Pool: Taiwanese aces plane in early /A23

SPORTS
Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres *Assistant Editor* Francis T. J. Ochoa
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Mavs shut down LeBron, Cavs; Trade talks make Bulls jittery /A24



Tañamor nails ticket to Beijing



IN A rare toe-to-toe exchange, Harry Tañamor (in red) evades a right hook from Tajik Sherali Dostiev. MANNY ZAMBRANO/ CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT

Scores close win over Tajik, but Basadre, Payla miss bus

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—LIGHT flyweight Harry Tañamor became the first Filipino boxer to bag a slot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics with a close victory over Sherali Dostiev of Tajikistan and barged into the quarterfinals of the Aiba World Boxing Championships Wednesday here.

Both Tanamor, who at 29 is the senior member of the seven-man RP-PLDT-Smart squad, and Dostiev played wait and see, with neither fighter throwing stinging punches in bursts.

The 4-4 deadlock at the end of the bout reflected the complexion of the low-scoring match with the battle-scarred Filipino veteran emerging triumphant only after the judges declared him as the more aggressive fighter.

But Tanamor's triumph was overshadowed by the losses suffered by flyweight Violito Payla and lightweight Genebert Basadre in the round of 16.

Payla fought gamely but failed to impress the judges in bowing to hometown bet Rau'shee Warren via a surprisingly lopsided, 11-25 score.

Basadre never recovered from a shaky start and took a stinging defeat at the hands of Armenian standout Hrachik Javakyan, 6-17.

Joyous yells of "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas" reverbrated inside the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion after Tañamor was declared the winner and the fighter whooped it up with coaches Pat Gaspi and Ronald Chavez.

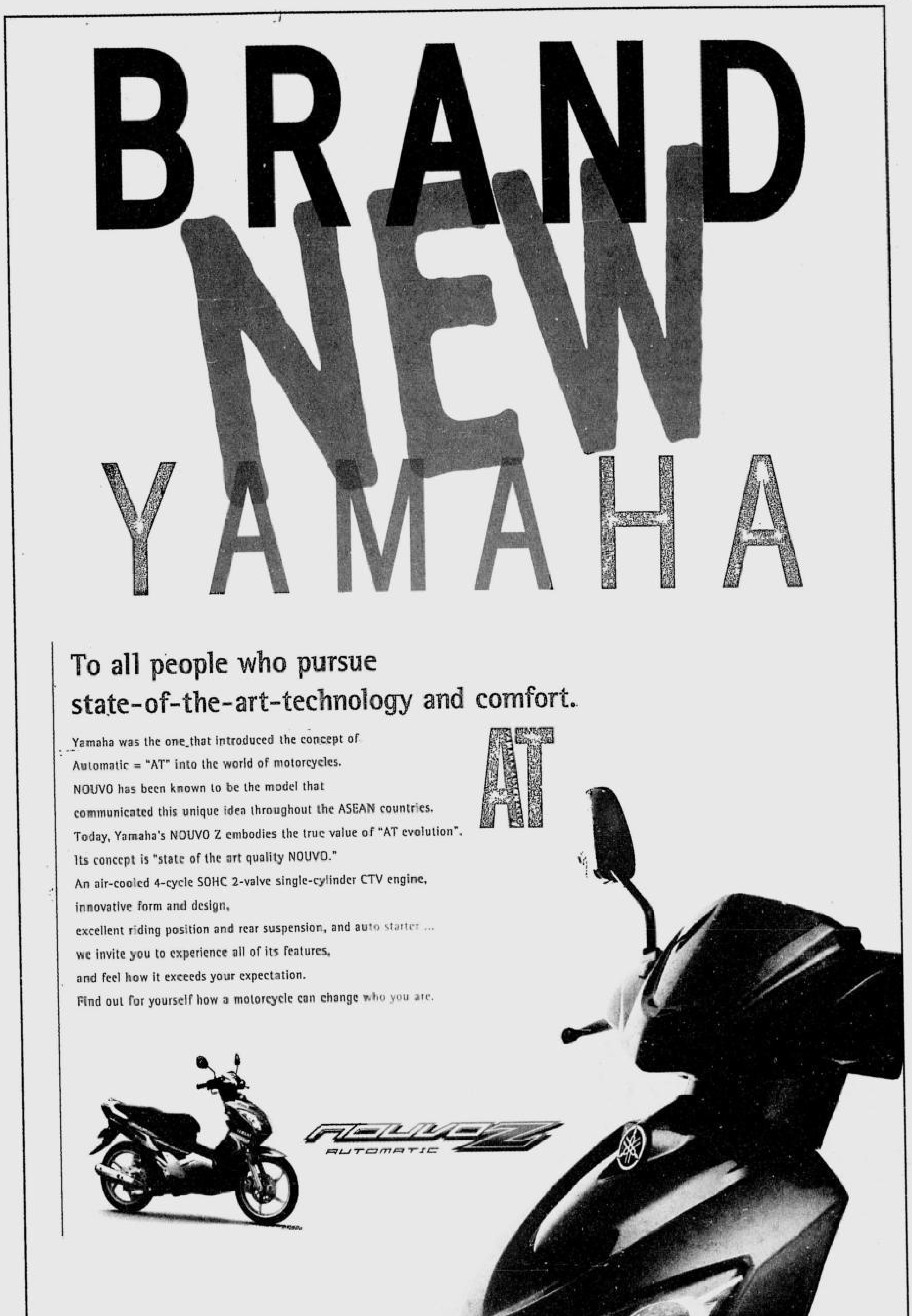
"Dostiev was looking for the smallest opener to score," Tañamor, who repeated over the same Tajik pug he beat in the 2004 Athens Olympics, said in Filipino.

"He was very, very cautious and I had to beat him in his own game. I'm really happy to win this one."

Tañamor's Beijing stint would duplicate the feat of Romeo Brin, who saw action in three Summer Games. The Army sergeant from Zamboanga City is looking for his first Olympic medal in Beijing after fruitless campaigns in Athens and in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"Hopefully, I can get a medal in Beijing—that's my dream," said Tañamor, who

TAÑAMOR/ A22



BRAND NEW YAMAHA

To all people who pursue state-of-the-art-technology and comfort.

Yamaha was the one that introduced the concept of
Automatic = "AT" into the world of motorcycles.
NOUVO has been known to be the model that
communicated this unique idea throughout the ASEAN countries.
Today, Yamaha's NOUVO Z embodies the true value of "AT evolution".
Its concept is "state of the art quality NOUVO."
An air-cooled 4-cycle SOHC 2-valve single-cylinder CTV engine,
innovative form and design,
excellent riding position and rear suspension, and auto starter ...
we invite you to experience all of its features,
and feel how it exceeds your expectation.
Find out for yourself how a motorcycle can change who you are.

AT

NOUVO Z AUTOMATIC

YAMAHA
Touching Your Heart

www.yamaha-motor.com.ph

Free concert at The Fort.
Free fuel at Petron.
Gas up ₱500 worth at Petron for a chance to win concert tickets for 2,
Fuel gift certificates and other premium items!

Globe brings you
the Beyoncé experience Live in Taguig 2007

MUSIC TELEVISION
PETRON Fuel Success.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5608, Series of 2007
Promo period is from Nov. 1 to Nov. 6, 2007. See posters for details.
Promo is valid for participating service stations only.

Que fires 67, trails Singapore leaders by 1

QUE: Three birdies coming home

THE PHILIPPINES' ANGELO QUE gunned down three birdies coming in for a four-under-par 67 and stood a stroke off the lead at start of the Barclay's Singapore Open Thursday at the Sentosa Golf and Country Club in Singapore.

Australia's Gavin Flint and Kane Webber and Jin Park of the United States upstaged the big names as each shot a five-under-par 66 to set the pace in the $4-million event.

Que's bogey-free round left him in solo fourth place as he spearheaded a Philippine charge that saw three of his compatriots shooting par or better. Que had birdies at holes No. 4, 10, 12 and 16.

Mars Pucay, fresh off a top 10 finish in a China stop of the Asian Tour, and Anthony Fernando, the reigning Philippine Amateur champion and one of the tournament "rabbits," joined a logjam at 11th place with one-under 70s.

With them in that group were Vijay Singh—who had an eagle two at the ninth—and defending champion Adam Scott.

Juvic Pagunsan, who won his maiden Asian Tour crown in last week's Pertamina Indonesia President Invitational, matched par 71 and was crammed in 24th spot.

Frankie Miñoza, who ruled the ABC Championship in Japan also last week, shot a two-over 73, and tied for 53rd spot.

Phil Mickelson was the best placed of the big-name players, but a double-bogey ultimately cost him a share of the lead, and he finished at three under along with South Korea's KJ Choi and Japan's Tetsuji Hiratsuka.

Tony Lascuña had a 76, Antonio Murakami fired a 77 and Gerald Rosales shot a 78. Jerome Dlariarte was five-over after 15 holes. *With a report from AP, Asian Tour*

The scores: 66—Gavin Flint (AUS), Kane Webber (AUS), Jin Park (USA); 67—**Angelo Que (PHI)**; 68—K.J. Choi (KOR), Phil Mickelson (USA), Tetsuji Hiratsuka (JPN); 69—Anthony Kang (USA), Gary Simpson (AUS), Richard Lee (NZL), Gurbaaz Mann (IND); 70—**Anthony Fernando (PHI)**, Martin Rominger (SUI), Keith Horne (RSA), Danny Chia (MAS), Vijay Singh (FIJ), Chapchai Nirat (THA), Adam Scott (AUS), Lin Keng-chi (TPE), S.S.P Chowrasia (IND), **Mars Pucay (PHI)**, Ashley Hall (AUS); 71—Johnson Poh (SIN), David Gleeson (AUS), Unho Park (AUS), Kiyoshi Miyazato (JPN), Darren Clarke (NIR), Quincy Quek (SIN), Lin Wen-tang (TPE), Mo Joong-kyung (KOR), Guido Van Der Valk (NED), Azuma Yano (JPN), Lee Westwood (ENG), **Juvic Pagunsan (PHI)**, Angel Cabrera (ARG), Mark Brown (NZL), Lu Wei-chih (TPE)

Giants tackle dangerous Dragons crew

AFTER WATCHING WELCOAT DEMOLISH Barangay Ginebra in an out-of-town sortie, Purefoods knows it will take more than just current form to hold off the Dragons.

The Giants stake their spotless record when they take on a horde of Dragons whose fire-breathing ways recently torched a first victim in the Smart Philippine Basketball Association Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

After starting the season with a pair of losses, Welcoat bounced back big time, ending the game against Ginebra with 16 straight points to pull off an 82-64 upset and log its first victory in an out-of-town match held in Roxas City.

"We hope the luck we had against Ginebra could spill over to this game," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria.

But while the Dragons are pinning their hopes on Lady Luck, the Giants hope to stretch their three-game winning streak with the same kind of intensity they have shown thus far.

Coach Ryan Gregorio and the Giants, who are coming off a hard-earned victory over Magnolia, vowed to treat the Dragons the way they did the powerhouse Beverage Masters.

"I cautioned my players that Welcoat is capable of pulling off a win," said Gregorio. "We should treat them with respect on the same level as the strongest teams in the league."

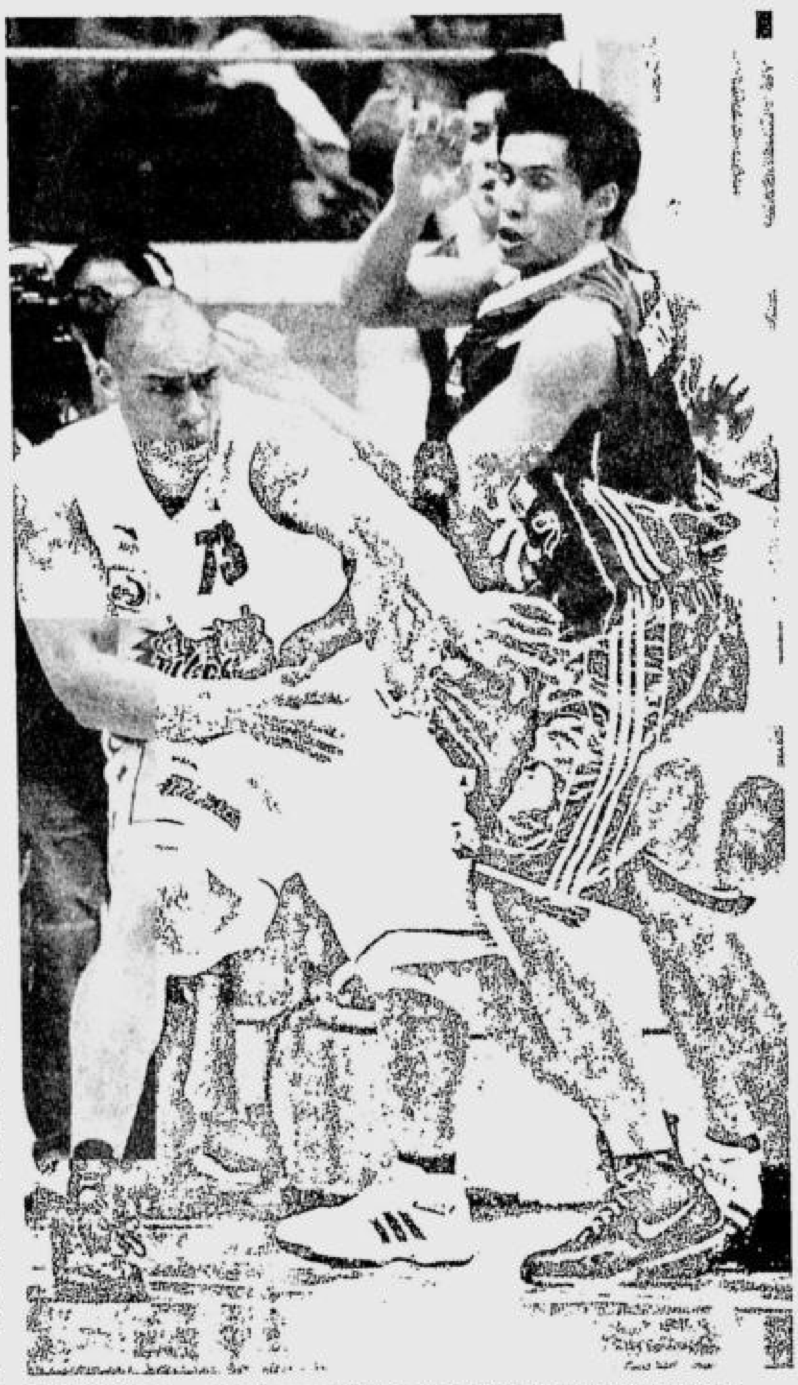
Sta. Lucia Realty, which also pulled off an upset in a 97-87 conquest of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, is also gunning for win No. 2 when the Realtors go up against Red Bull in the other game.

Fresh from a 95-84 victory over the Air21 Express on Wednesday, the Bulls are seeking to tie idle Magnolia at second place with coach Yeng Guiao again hoping to draw the most out of his trade-stripped unit.

"We'll try to win as many games as we can and see what happens," said Guiao. *June Navarro*

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	3	0
Magnolia	3	1
Red Bull	2	1
Talk 'N Text	2	2
Alaska	2	2
Sta. Lucia	1	2
Welcoat	1	2
Air21	1	2
Coca-Cola	1	2
Ginebra	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs Purefoods
7:20 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Red Bull


HULKING Coca-Cola forward Ali Peek elects to pass under pressure from Magnolia's Dondon Hontiveros in a recent match. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Asia's sports chief to visit RP in March

MACAU—OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF ASIA president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah on Thursday said he will visit Manila in March next year to confer with Philippine Olympic Committee head Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, whom he appointed as advisor on Tuesday.

Sheikh Ahmad relayed his message to POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros, who said the news validated OCA's support to Cojuangco after a malicious report linked the POC to an alleged misuse of an OCA grant.

"There are many topics to be discussed, including the Asian Beach Games which the Philippines will host in 2014," Hontiveros quoted Sheikh Ahmad as saying.

"(The sheikh) will also see what other support the POC needs."

Ahmad named Cojuangco as replacement to Thailand's Maj. Gen. Charouk Arirachakaran, who is now OCA vice president.

Cojuangco will have direct access to the OCA president on important matters.

SK expat rules Forest Hills golf

ANTIPOLO—KOREAN EUN JONG-KIM bagged the centerpiece Division I title of the recent Forest Hills Chairman's Cup even as club member Gene Sebastian drove away with the biggest prize in the tournament held at the golf complex's Palmer and Player layouts.

Eun edged out countryman San Young-lee in the tournament presented by Hyundai Marcos Hi-Way which used the Stableford scoring.

Carlo Reyes edged out Allan Yap for the Division 2 championship, while Joel Agbanlog topped Division 3 over Christopher Ong.

Sebastian, meanwhile, won the Hyundai Getz that was raffled off during the awarding ceremonies graced by internationally acclaimed performer Eddie Katindig.

The tournament, held in honor of club chair Ferdinand Santos, drew a banner field of 250 players made up of members and their guests.

"We at the club would like to thank everyone who made this event a resounding success," Santos, a lawyer, said. "We expect to make this event one of the country's biggest."

Thirdy Escano, business manager of foremost Filipino pro Frankie Miñoza, nipped Bong Arguelles for the Guest division title.

Harbour-RP squad 'still lacks killer instinct'

By Jasmine W. Payo

NATIONAL COACH JUNEL BACULI believes the Harbour-Philippine Team still misses one key trait needed to capture the Southeast Asian Games crown.

"There's still no killer instinct," said Baculi, who has little over a month left to prepare the team for the SEAG men's basketball action in Thailand.

"There is a level of play where we want to stay. But we have to maintain that level if we want to win."

Baculi said the lack of aggressiveness has been evident in the four games it played as a guest team in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup.

"Scoring is not a problem, but we must have the heart to defend," said Baculi after the Harbour-RP Team improved its record to 3-1, but not after surviving Toyota Balintawak.

The nationals will play three more PBL games before leaving for their final overseas training in Singapore on Nov. 10, less than a month after their tune-up series in Seoul, Korea.

"We have to buckle down to work; we have to work on our defense," said Baculi, who commended ex-pro Alex Crisano's leadership and Jason Castro's consistency.

"We scouted some of our (SEAG) opponents, height won't be a problem, especially with Crisano around," said Baculi. "He took the role of the leader because he knows most of his teammates are young."

Completing the 12-man roster are Patrick Cabahug, Jonathan Fernandez, Beau Belga, Chad Alonzao, Jeff Chan, Erick dela Cuesta, Eugene Tan, Boyet Bautista and Allan Salangsang.

Tañamor nails ticket to Beijing

From page A21

immediately called his wife Jocynie in Las Piñas City to break the good news.

Tañamor guns for a semifinal berth on Thursday against Pan American Games gold medalist Luis Yanez, who whipped Australian Stephen Sutherland via a referee-stopped-contest-compulsory count limit (RSC-CCL).

It was clear right from the opening bell that both Tañamor and Dostiev were not in the mood to mix it up. They sized each other all throughout with Tañamor throwing occasional left straights at Dostiev, who seemed contended in keeping his distance.

The score was 0-0 after the first two minutes of action, before Dostiev drew first blood with a right straight. As Dostiev moved in to attack before the second round ended, Tañamor scored with a left straight to tie the score.

The crowd erupted in cheers as another left straight gave the Filipino a 2-1 lead early in the third round.

Bored with the lack of action despite an earlier caution, the referee decided to penalize both fighters, giving Tañamor a slim 4-3 lead.

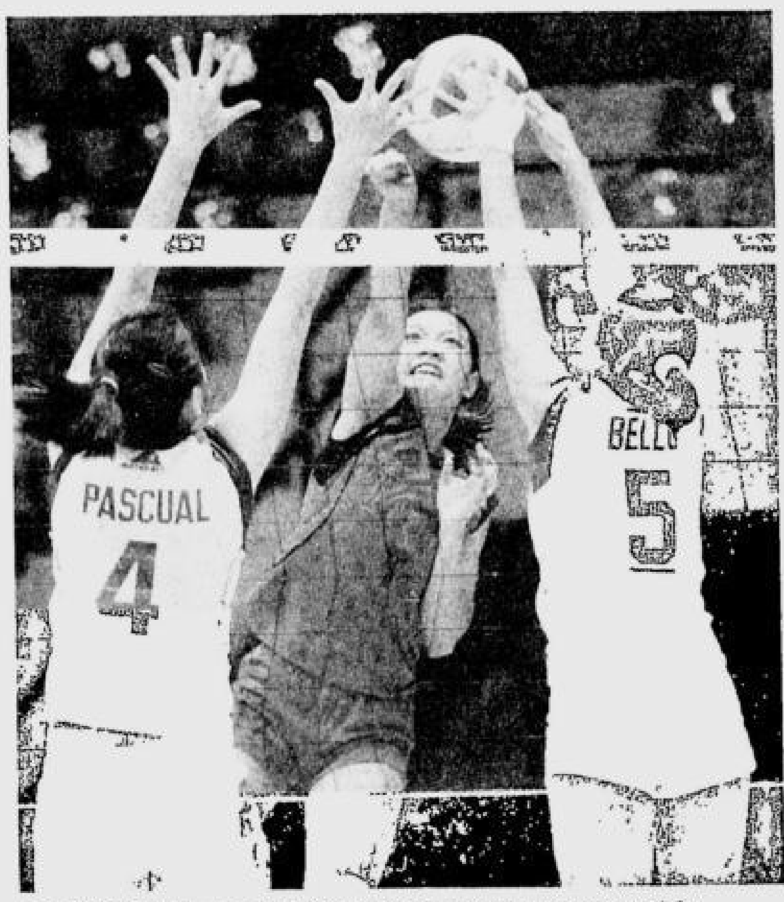
A Dostiev right straight tied the count at 4-4 with bare 33 seconds to go.

Payla didn't have a chance against Warren, who became the first American boxer in 30 years to secure a berth in two Olympics.

The Filipino trailed Warren, 1-9, at the end of second round and was behind, 3-13, halfway through the match.

"Payla gave it his best shot," said a disappointed Gaspi. "He made scoring punches that weren't counted during his comeback."

Basadre fell behind early, 0-9, against the Armenian and never recovered.



ADAMSON'S Bea Pascual (4) and Karla Bello thwart an attack by Letran's Gena Andaya in Tuesday's match. Adamson won. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ateneo, Adamson tossers clash for 2nd semis berth

ATENEO AND ADAMSON University dispute the second semifinal berth in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference today at The Arena in San Juan.

Carrying 3-1 records along with idle University of Santo Tomas Tigresses, the Lady Eagles clash with the Lady Falcons at 3 p.m.

Undefeated San Sebastian College clinched the first slot after notching its fourth straight win at the expense of La Salle last Tuesday, 25-20, 25-22, 25-16.

La Salle tries to bounce back from that loss against Lyceum in the 5 p.m. match. The Lady Arches only have a victory to show in three games while the Lady Pirates have yet to win after four starts.

Thai guest player, Lithawat Kesinee, will lead the Lady Eagles anew while Patricia Taganas, Charo Soriano, Karla Bello and Denise Acevedo will provide support.

Kesinee paces the scoring department with 76 and is likewise the leading blocker with 35.

Adamson reinforcement Neriza Bautista and mainstays Rissa Laguilles, Angela Benting, Jacqueline So and Jill Gustilo will spearhead the Lady Falcons' challenge.

A win by defending champion La Salle would eliminate Lyceum from the semifinal race while boosting their chances for the remaining three seats.

The Lady Pirates, who bested the Lady Archers in the battle for third last conference, may force a playoff for a semifinal slot if they sweep their last three games.

Lyceum's remaining opponents are Letran on Nov. 4 and Santo Tomas on Nov. 11. *Romina S. Austria*

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	4	0*
UST	3	1
Ateneo	3	1
Adamson	3	1
FEU	2	2
La Salle	1	2
Lyceum	0	4
Letran	0	5

*semifinalist

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson
5 p.m.—Lyceum vs La Salle

Last Milo 21K qualifier kicks off in Baguio Sunday

TWENTY-TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO.

The elimination stage of the 31st National Milo Marathon comes to an end this Sunday in Baguio City.

More than 300 runners have already qualified for the 2007 season's grand finale on Nov. 18 in Metro Manila from the series of 21K races in the provinces and the 42K in Metro Manila on July 22.

The last six finalists—the top three in both men and women's events—will be known in the race that will start and end at Burnham Park.

Aside from slots to the grand finals the top finishers will also receive trophies and cash prizes.

According to Nestle AVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong, a total cash prize of P159,000 will be given away to the top 10 winners as well as to the top three in the 5K fun run and 3K race for kids.

Runners in the 5K race will have one hour to finish the race. The 21K run will have a cut-off time of two hours and 30 minutes.

Also scheduled in this Sunday's festivities are the inter-school running contest and the cheer-dance competition.

The last time the Milo elimination run was held in Baguio City was in September 2004.

Local organizer Tonette Del Monte has invited Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas to fire off the over 4,000 runners at 6 a.m. He will also be on hand to award the prizes to the final six qualifiers.

Assisting the organizers in assuring the safety and security of the participants are the Baguio PNP headed by Baguio police chief Supt. Moises Guevarra, Baguio City Emergency and Rescue Association, and the Spectrum Communications.

The country's longest running foot race is being held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas and the Department of Tourism.

Chiang Kai Shek bags WNCAA junior title

KAREN BERNICE COLUMNA banged in 35 points and Chiang Kai Shek College avenged its loss to Miriam College last year with a 63-57 overtime victory over the weekend to win the junior basketball crown of the the 38th WNCAA season at the St. Scholastica's College gym in Manila.

With Columna scoring from all angles, the Lady Blue Dragons also completed a remarkable comeback after dropping Game 1 to the Miriam eagerettes, 71-69.

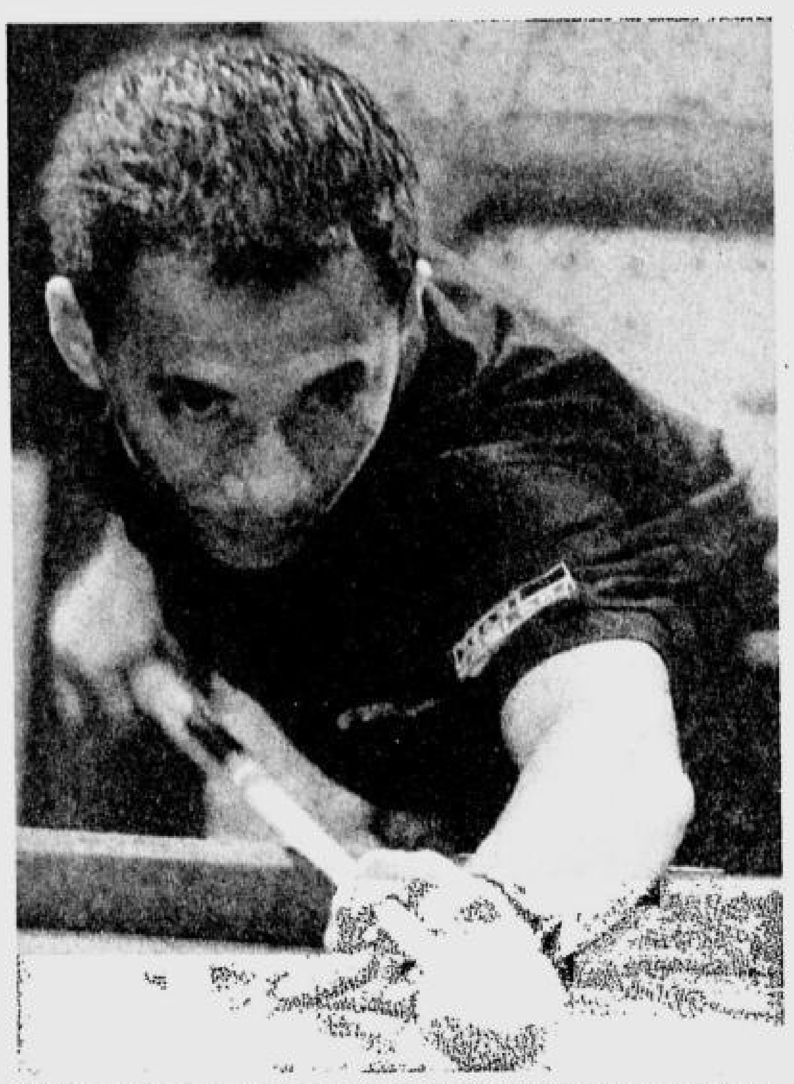
CKSC tied the series by the slimmest of margins, 49-48, in Game 2.

The 16-year-old Columna, along with teammates Tiffany Mae Sy, Wendy Go and Katherine Merilo, played her last season with the Lady Blue Dragons.

Miriam's midgets team kept its title over San Beda College Alabang, taking Games One, 41-38, and Three, 39-37.

Host Lyceum, Rizal Technological University and De La Salle Zobel have won two WNCAA titles each in various sports. Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila, Miriam, CKSC and St. Scholastica have secured one each.

Lyceum defended its Senior A basketball and volleyball titles, RTU bagged the senior B basketball and futsal crowns and DLSZ retained its junior futsal title while unseating San Beda as midget volleyball champion.



DENNIS Orcollo, in Ronnie Alcano's opinion, has the greatest chance of thwarting a Taiwanese rule in the World Pool Championship.

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Taiwanese aces plane in early

By Musong R. Castillo

IF PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO WINNING THE 2007 World Pool Championship, the formidable Taiwanese delegation may have gotten a headstart, planing into the country last week and sharpening their skills in their hotel for the event that starts tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

"They've been here, at least more than a week ago," defending champion Ronnie Alcano of the Philippines told the INQUIRER yesterday in Filipino. "They are playing in so many money games in their hotels, which has taken a World Pool atmosphere."

Alcano leads the formidable Philippine charge in the $400,000 event and the 35-year-old, who won the title over Germany's Ralf Souquet last year, reiterated that if it is not a Filipino who will win, it will be a Taiwanese, like teen star Wu Chia-ching.

Efren "The Magician" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and 2004 winner Alex Pagulayan are also there for Philippine cause, though Alcano had said that it is Dennis Orcollo who seems to be the best local bet thus far.

"He (Orcollo) has been making so much money against the foreigners lately (in the hotels)," Alcano said with a laugh. "Dennis is a prime bet to go far in the tournament."

There will be a total of 45 countries to be represented in the tournament that stakes $100,000 to the winner and the United States, led by the temperamental Earl Strickland, and former champion Johnny Archer, has the most entries with 15.

The field of 128 players will be divided into 16 groups of eight players each using the double elimination format with a race-to-9 affair, winners breaking.

It will be a unique elimination since two straight wins will make the player advance to the round-of-64, while two straight losses take them to the showers regardless of the outcome of their other matches.

The final set of matches in the group will feature players with one win and one defeat with winners advancing and the losers eliminated.

Top seeds Alcano, Soquet picked to bag $100,000

THE FINALISTS IN LAST YEAR'S WORLD Pool Championships have been installed as the heavy favorites to bag the $100,000 winner's purse in the 2007 edition which blasts off tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Defending champion Ronnie Alcano, the lanky 35-year-old from Calamba, Laguna, has been seeded first as expected, with 2006 runner-up Ralf Soquet of Germany getting the No. 2 seeding.

Fresh off his runner-up finish in the US Open won by American Shane Van Boening, Alcano opens his bid for back-to-back titles against little-known H. Saeed Ahmed Al-Mutawa of the United Arab Emirates.

Souquet battles Filipino qualifier Leonardo Andam, the same man he disposed of in the first round last year.

Chinese Taipei's Wu Chia-ching, the 2005 champion, and compatriot Yang Ching-shun were installed as the third and fourth seeds of the tournament that also dangles a $40,000 prize for the runner-up.

The third placer pockets $20,000, the fourth placer $10,000 and the fifth to 20th finisher $4,500 each.

Sentimental favorite and 1999 winner Efren "Bata" Reyes was seeded sixth, two rungs ahead of Alex Pagulayan, the Canada-based Filipino from Cabangan, Isabela, who beat Taiwanese Chang Pei-wei for the 2004 crown.

The other seeded players: Thorsten Hohmann, Germany (fifth); Chang Jung-lin, Chinese Taipei (seventh); Thomas Engert, Germany (10th); Konstantin Stepanov, Russia (11th); Mika Immonen, Finland (12th); Boening (13th); Li Hewen, China (14th); Johnny Archer, US (15th); Niels Feijen, the Netherlands, (16th); Daryl Peach, England (17th); Chao Fong-pang, CT (18th); Fabio Petroni, Italy (19th); Rodney Morris, US (20th).

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

COMMENTARY

Quo vadis Pacquiao, the compulsive puncher

By Hermie Rivera

OK, MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA, STUBBORNLY INFLEXIBLE for 12 rounds, gave Manny Pacquiao an unexpected surprise when he lasted the distance in their rematch before a roaring Las Vegas crowd at the Mandalay Resort and Casino.

But the bigger surprise was Manny's inventive switch from compulsive punching to bonny boxing—an ingenius gameplan that frustrated Marco despite his lack of ferocity.

The Pacman's previous knockout wins have left an impact on his fans who've come to expect abbreviated endings in all of his fights.

Asked why he deviated from his usual norm, the GenSan slugger fired back, rather quizically: "You don't want your ass kicked by an old man, do you?"

Fittingly, Pacquiao's innovative conquest of Barrera closed the book on one of Mexico's legends.

John Whisler of the San Antonio Express earlier wrote that a Pacquiao victory was certain since the Philippines' finest ringman is just "too young, too explosive and too dynamic."

HBO's Jim Lampley was more emphatic: The Filipino boxing idol is just "too fast, too strong and too good."

But Pacquiao's fistic coup has posed problems in his weight class. Manny has dominated the junior lightweight division thoroughly that a move to the lightweight rung looks imminent.

Categorized at times as super-featherweight, the 130-pound rating was created for fighters who find it too wide to bridge the gap between featherweight (126 lbs.) and lightweight (135 lbs.).

Since tightening his grip on this weight innovation, the 28-year-old phenomenon is being lured to move up for big money fights against WBC lightweight boss David Diaz or unbeaten Juan "Baby Bull" Diaz, an aggresive, hard-hitting Mexican who could pull in the crowd for a huge payday.

There is also an ongoing scuffle among the other aspirants in both weight allocations to earn a bunchful of mint.

Now, who is likely to have the first crack at Pacquiao's tower of fortune?

While Juan Manuel Marquez was almost stopped by Manny Pacquiao en route to a debatable draw, he remained unbeaten in his last six fights, to include his pilferage of Marco Barrera's crown at the MGM Grand.

Deserving?

Not quite.

The knock on Marquez is that he's unexciting. Whether this is an accurate reflection of his style or not will be known only if he gets picked as Pacquiao's prime challenger.

Promoter Bob Arum has given Manny authority to negotiate what's needed with his next archenemy.

Cool!

Magkano? (How much?)

Swim prodigy has makings of a star

TAN: Future national swimmer. RAFFY LERMA

By June Navarro

CHRISTINE GRACE TAN HAS spent the greater part of her childhood reading school books and floating tirelessly in the pool.

But the 14-year-old swimming prodigy doesn't mind doing the same routine over and over again, especially now that the dividends of hard work and dedication are beginning to trickle in.

Tan was the most promising athlete of the recent Philippine Olympic Festival-Bicol Southern Tagalog qualifying games after carting away a total of 12 gold medals for Batangas.

She jump-started the gold rush by winning the 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 800m freestyle, 400m individual medley before adding the 200m IM, 200m butterfly, 50m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 200m free and 100m breaststroke in her cache.

On the final day of swimming competitions, Tan capped her scintillating performance by snaring two more gold medals in the 400m freestyle and 100m butterfly for girls' 14-and-under category.

The feat was a product of a grind that included a daily trip to the pool at sunrise, school sessions at midday and slipping back into her swimsuit late in the afternoon until darkness covers the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Banos, Laguna, where she is based.

"I love doing it because I really want to swim for the national team," said Tan, whose magnetic looks and athletic 5-foot-5 frame fetches comparisons to Akiko Thomson or Christine Jacobs.

A three-time Olympian and multiple Southeast Asian Games gold medalist during the 90s, Thomson was once swimming's poster girl.

Jacobs, on the other hand, flourished as one of the country's top Asian Games bets in the 80s before trying her hand at show business.

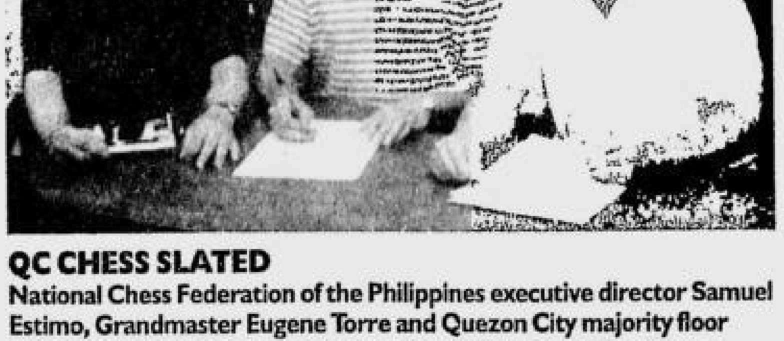
The bashful Tan, who started swimming at age seven, has the same winning attitude plus the features.

The daughter of a banker from Lipa City, Tan was discovered by scouts from the national team during the Palarong Pambansa held in Koronadal City, Southern Cotabato five months ago after anchoring Batangas to a golden effort in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

Tan, a Palaro campaigner since she was 11 years old in 2004, was brought to Trace, the breeding ground for future national swimmers. There, she regularly trains and studies.

"I'm allowed to go home during Saturdays and return immediately the following day," said Tan, whose victories qualified her for the national finals of the POF next month at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

She knows it's the perfect opportunity even if it means spending the precious moments of her childhood between schooling and training.



QC CHESS SLATED

National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive director Samuel Estimo, Grandmaster Eugene Torre and Quezon City majority floor leader and 4th district councilor Ariel Inton (from left) sign the memorandum of agreement for the holding of the Quezon City Inter-Barangay Chessfest at the Amoranto Sports Complex on Dec.13-16.

RP karters eye Asian karting crowns

THE PHILIPPINES HOPES TO KEEP ITS karting dominance in the Asian region behind nine of the country's best young drivers who will be seeing action today in the fourth leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship that started yesterday in Bangkok, Thailand.

Karter of the Year Jean Stefano Marcelo will be leading the country's campaign as he guns for a third straight victory in the premiere Formula 125 Seniors class of this prestigious international event.

The other members of the Philippine contingent are Vei-Ar Suba and Christian Gaddi in the Cadet 60 Novice class, Cebu's Jette Calderon and Jet Racing's Renz Pazcoguin and Franco Reyes in the Mini-ROK division, Javi Benitez and Vencer John Suba in the ROK Junior and Formula 125 Juniors classes and Mike Casimiro in the ROK Seniors.

Joining them is delegation head Johnny Tan who's expecting the Philippines to claim seven of the nine titles at stake.

"We're proud of their excellent job in Italy where they proved Filipinos are equally competitive in karting," said Tan.

The 14-year-old Marcelo leads the race for the overall title and a win will firm up his quest to preserve the Asian Karting crown in Philippines' hands for the fourth straight year after Michele Bumgarner made it back-to-back in 2004 and 2006, and Marlon Stockinger's title-clinching feat last year.

He currently holds a total of 75 points but could face a tough fight from Hong Kong-based Italian karter Luca Ferigutti and Macau's Johnny Carlos Afonso who are expected to unleash last ditch efforts to catch up as they trail in second and third with 51 and 50 points respectively.

Vei-Ar Suba is eyeing the Cadet 60 crown where he leads with 110 points with Gaddi in second overall with 60 points.

Vencer John Suba is the current leader in the race for the ROK Junior crown.

China warns against unauthorized protests

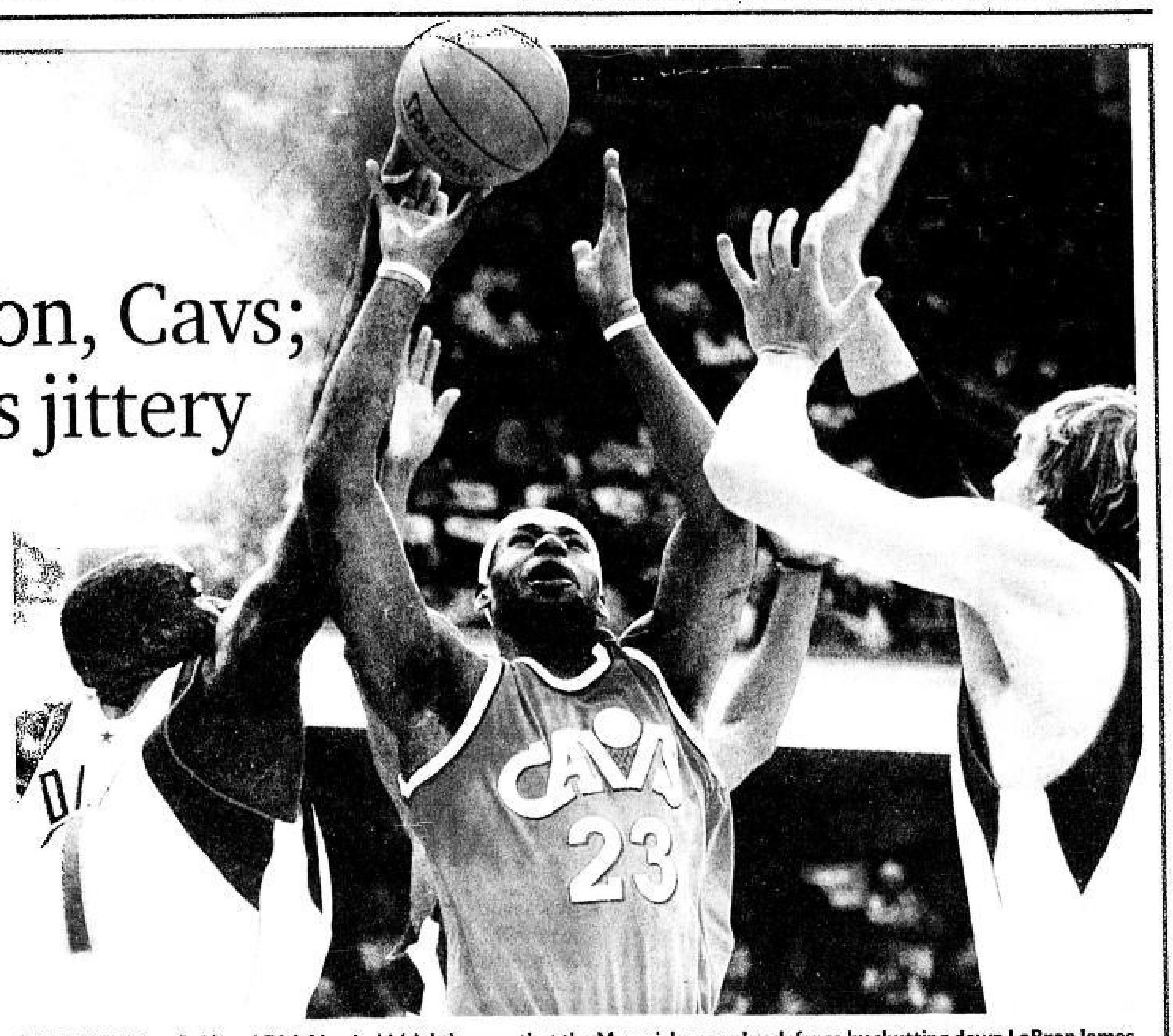
BEIJING—CHINA WILL NOT TOLERATE UNAUTHORIZED PARADES, demonstrations or protests during next year's Olympics, a spokesman said Thursday. The announcement by Public Security Ministry press officer Wu Heping puts on notice a range of groups from rights activists to environmentalists who hope to harness the Games' visibility to publicize their causes. *AP*

Calzaghe, Kessler put records, belts on line

LONDON—JOE CALZAGHE AND MIKKEL KESSLER PUT THEIR UNBEATEN records on the line for their super-middleweight unification bout Sunday at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium. Calzaghe is unbeaten in 43 fights while Dane Kessler sports a 39-0 record. Whoever prevails in front of an expected 50,000 plus crowd will walk away with all four super-middleweight belts. *Reuters*

Spooked!

Mavs shut down LeBron, Cavs; Trade talks make Bulls jittery



DESAGNA Diop (left) and Dirk Nowitzki (right) prove that the Mavericks can play defense by shutting down LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on the way to a Halloween night victory. REUTERS

CLEVELAND, OHIO—THE ORANGE-CLAD CLEVELAND Cavaliers couldn't overcome a frightening first half as they were outclassed by the Dallas Mavericks 92-74 in their season opener on Wednesday.

Cleveland got into the Halloween spirit by wearing their retro orange uniforms but the Eastern Division champions couldn't muster any offense as their star LeBron James was held scoreless in a first half for the first time in his career.

Jason Terry scored 24 points for Dallas which was without Josh Howard after he was suspended two games for fighting in a preseason game.

"I thought we had an excellent first quarter, offensively and defensively. We tried to attack (LeBron) James," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "We had a pretty good training camp, and it carried over into this first game."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and had six assists for Dallas, which jumped out to a 25-point lead in the third quarter.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 17 points and Devin Harris contributed 13 for Dallas.

The Mavericks suffered one of the most shocking upsets in the history of the playoffs last season when they lost to eighth seed Golden State in the first round.

James had his demons following him around all night long. He collected three fouls in the first half and didn't play in the last half of the second quarter.

"I thought it was a strong move," James said about his third foul, a charge into Nowitzki. "I got into the lane and I jumped straight up and (Nowitzki) got up underneath me and (the official) gave me a charge."

James split two free throws to score his first point at 10:09 of the third period and moments later hit his first field goal. He finished with 10 points on two-of-11 shooting.

"Dirk (Nowitzki) and Gana (Diop) protected the basket for us pretty well because even when (James) got down there, I thought we were in there," Johnson said.

GAMES TODAY
(Basketball TV)
10:30 a.m.—Phoenix vs. Seattle
(replay at 9 p.m.)

At Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis scored 26 points and Hedo Turkoglu had 24 to lift the Magic past the Milwaukee Bucks, 102-83.

Chinese rookie and Milwaukee top pick Yi Jianlian had nine points and three rebounds in 25 minutes in his debut.

At Indianapolis, Jamaal Tinsley scored 16 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, and the Indiana Pacers won in coach Jim O'Brien's debut, 119-110, against the Washington Wizards.

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 20 points and the Toronto Raptors began defense of the Atlantic Division title with a 106-97 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Antoine Wright scored 14 of his career-high 21 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to lead the New Jersey Nets over the distracted Chicago Bulls, 112-103.

Richard Jefferson added 29 points, Vince Carter added 24 points and Jason Kidd handed out 13 assists to lead the Nets.

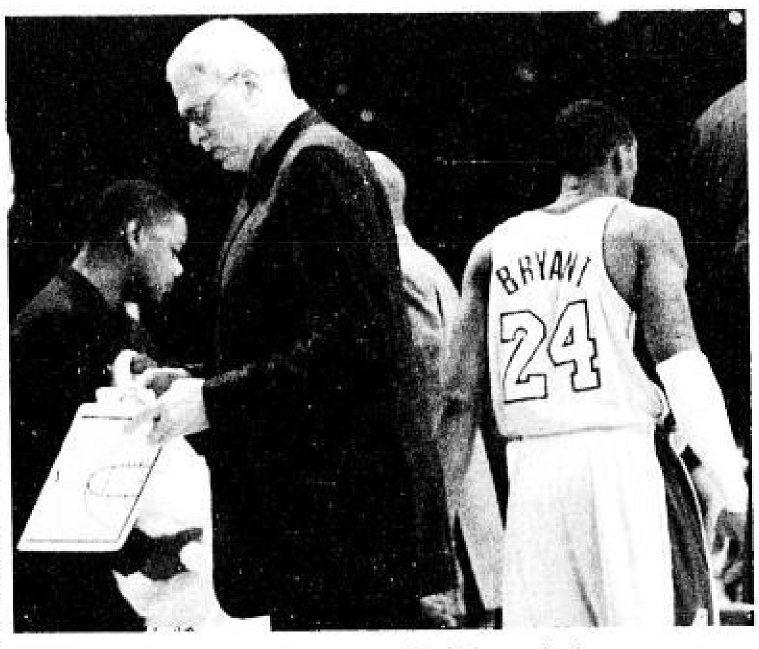
Ben Gordon had 27 points and Luol Deng added 22 for the Bulls, who have been distracted in recent days by rumors of a possible trade for Kobe Bryant.

At Memphis, Tennessee, Manu Ginobili scored 30 points, including the go-ahead basket with 32 seconds left, as the San Antonio Spurs nipped the Memphis Grizzlies, 104-101.

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 22 points and 12 assists, while Peja Stojakovic added 19 points for the Hornets, who beat the Sacramento Kings, 104-90, in their first game returning to New Orleans full-time.

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and bottled up Seattle rookie Kevin Durant in his NBA debut as the Nuggets routed the SuperSonics, 120-103. *AFP, AP*

Lakers fans' boos: The sound of cracks in LA-Kobe relationship



AFTER publicly turning his back on the Lakers, the honeymoon between No. 24 and LA fans is over—and even Phil Jackson doesn't look capable of healing the rift. REUTERS

By Paul Oberjuerge
San Bernardino Sun

LOS ANGELES—THE LOVE THAT WOULD last forever?

Dead.

The favorite son who could do no wrong?

Scorned.

Kobe Bryant as eternal pet of Los Angeles basketball fans?

Dropped off at the pound.

The marriage is over. This relationship is broken, probably irretrievably. And not even Dr. Phil—the coach or the shrink—seems capable of fixing it.

Kobe Bryant was vigorously booed Tuesday night. Of course, he's heard boos before, felt the wrath of an NBA crowd.

But never on his home court.

Never in Los Angeles, in front of Lakers fans.

Bryant before the game said he expected nothing unusual when he was introduced to the crowd before the Lakers' season opener versus the Houston Rockets.

"I don't think it will be any different," were his exact words.

And the fans' exact words?

"Boo!"

Nobody realized this relationship had gone so wrong. That what looked like the ultimate marriage of athlete and city had rotted out so thoroughly. But it has.

Funny, how no one saw it coming.

Phil Jackson didn't, either. Asked how Bryant would be received just before tipoff, the Lakers coach said, "I think it will be the same. Our fans are dedicated."

Within the hour, Staples Center was echoing with boos and catcalls aimed at No. 24 in purple and gold, almost a shocking concept.

It was like the Pope getting jeered in St. Peter's Basilica. Tom Jones hooted off the stage in Las Vegas.

It isn't as if Lakers fans didn't have cause. Bryant whip-sawed the franchise through a turbulent summer with his demands to be traded, his criticism of Lakers ownership, management and teammates.

He never really apologized, never really retracted his trade demand, and sometime between June and Tuesday night, the ticket-buying public apparently decided it had heard and seen enough of his complaining about his career in a city that had done nothing but worship and enrich him.

Even as Bryant went on to score 45 points in a 95-93 defeat, fueling a rally that almost salvaged the game, the crowd didn't respond to him the way it would have a year ago.

There were a few lonely calls of "MVP!"—a sad and distant echo of the roaring, adoring chants that once rocked Staples Center.

Bryant has wrecked his relationship with Laker fans. The only solution is a Bryant trade. For whatever the Lakers can get in return.

Only then will Kobe Bean Bryant again bask in the adoration of the home fans—when he is wearing something other than a Lakers uniform.

Federer leads march of stars; Djokovic gets the boot

FEDERER AFP

PARIS—TOP-SEEDED ROGER FEDERER beat Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, Wednesday to reach the third round of the Paris Masters and earn a chance to avenge his loss to David Nalbandian less than two weeks ago.

The 12-time Grand Slam champion has reached the final of every tournament he's entered since losing to Filippo Volandri in the third round of the Rome Masters on May 10.

"I come here a big favorite and I'm on a great run again, having played only finals since many months," Federer said.

Nalbandian beat Federer for the Madrid Masters title on Oct. 21. Having won four of the last five, Federer has an 8-7 edge over the Argentine, who advanced after beating 14th-seeded Carlos Moya, 6-4, 6-4.

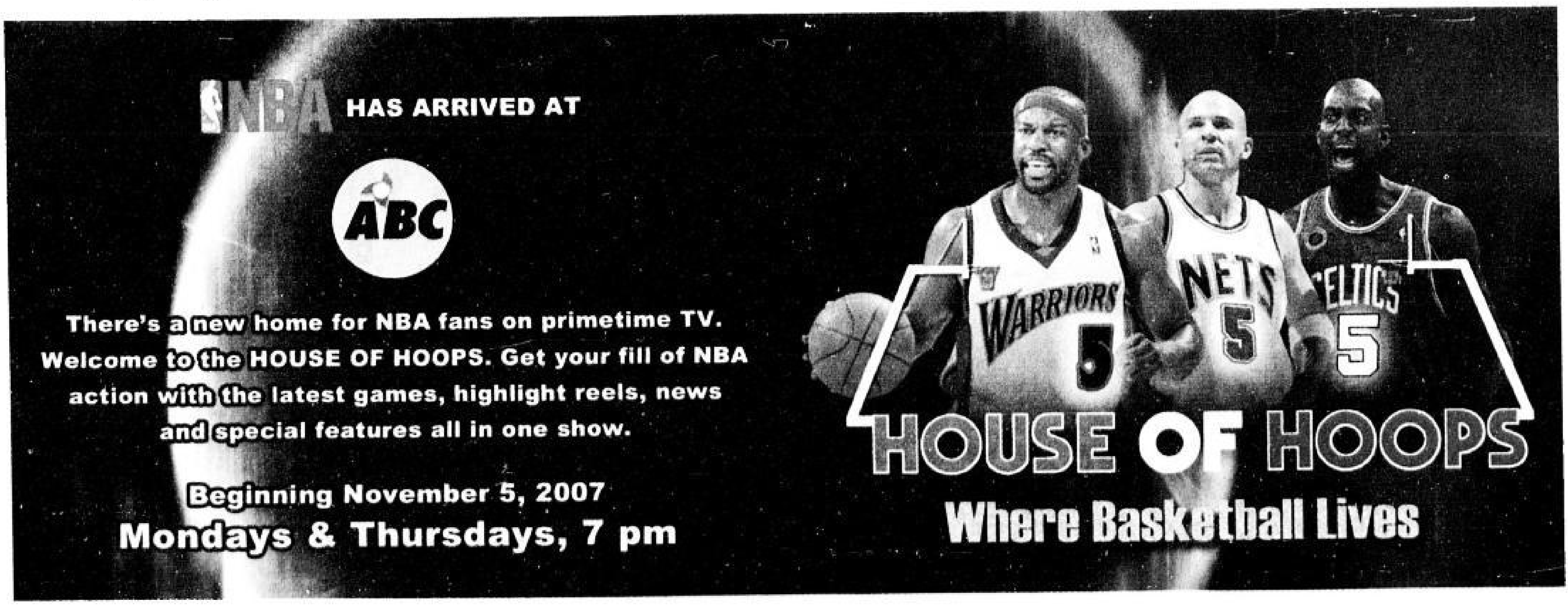
Federer has already qualified for the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup, along with Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Nikolay Davydenko, Andy Roddick and David Ferrer.

Only two of eight spots remain open, and James Blake of the United States and Richard Gasquet of France also are still in contention. They will meet in the third round Thursday.

The sixth-seeded Blake beat Nicolas Mahut of France, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1, and the 10th-seeded Gasquet topped Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, 7-5, 7-6 (3).

Meanwhile, Djokovic was ousted from the Paris Masters, losing to French veteran Fabrice Santoro, 6-3, 6-2, in the second round.

Nadal overcame an early to break to easily beat Filippo Volandri, 6-3, 6-1, and reach the third round. *AP*



NBA HAS ARRIVED AT ABC

There's a new home for NBA fans on primetime TV. Welcome to the HOUSE OF HOOPS. Get your fill of NBA action with the latest games, highlight reels, news and special features all in one show.

Beginning November 5, 2007
Mondays & Thursdays, 7 pm

HOUSE OF HOOPS
Where Basketball Lives

Vaidisova injures wrist, drops out

QUEBEC CITY—TOP-seeded Nicole Vaidisova dropped out of the Bell Challenge on Wednesday night because of a right wrist injury after splitting the first two sets with Czech compatriot Renata Voracova. Vaidisova won the opening set, 6-2, then fell, 6-3, in the second before stopping play in the first-round match. In a late second-round match, second-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia beat France's Severine Bermond 6-3, 7-6 (6). *AP*

mobile news
inquirer.net/mobilenews

Subscribe to INQUIRER news alerts on your mobile phone through SMS or MMS!

SMS Breaking News:
Text ON <space> INQUIRER <space> BREAKING and send to 2207 for Globe
Text INQUIRER <space> ON <space> BREAKING and send to 2957 for Smart

MMS Breaking News:
Text ON <space> INQUIRERMMS <space> BREAKING and send to 2207 for Globe
Text INQUIRERMMS <space> ON <space> BREAKING and send to 2957 for Smart

Only P2.50 per SMS received, P5.00 for MMS. Receive at least one (1) alert per day.

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

DO BUSINESS WITH MILLIONS OF MOBILE PHONE USERS.

Earn in 8 seconds with your 1 sqm. space.

Kodak Picture Kiosk

For inquiries e-mail at kodakkiosk@techtrendscorp.com or contact Gerlie Palma Gil, tel. no. 810-03-34 loc.430.

Forex reserves seen at $31B by yearend

Boost to come from 4th quarter OFW inflows

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS SEES THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves surging to $31 billion by the end of the year given strong inflows expected in the fourth quarter.

A BSP official also said that the central bank would review its projections on the gross international reserves as well as the balance of payments (BOP) this November in time for the annual policy discussions with a visiting mission from the International Monetary Fund.

"We'll see if we can retain or revise (the forecasts) in connection with the forthcoming IMF meetings," the official said.

The two-week review with a Washington-based IMF mission as a member of the Washington-based multilateral institution is scheduled on Nov. 29 to Dec. 11.

The official estimated that the GIR level, which has breached the BSP's full-year forecast of $30 billion as of end-August, could rise further to the $31 billion by year's end.

FOREX/B3

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo chats with ACS president and CEO Victor Endaya at the inauguration of the Advanced Contact Solutions call center in Araneta Center, Cubao. LYN RILLON

BSP says credit crunch had little impact on RP

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY HAS HURDLED well the recent global financial volatility caused by the US credit crunch that peaked in August, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' assessment.

In a recently released report on the US subprime crisis, the BSP said the impact on the domestic real sector of the higher investor risk aversion had been "relatively small and indirect" just as it had expected.

The credit squeeze in the US that spooked global markets was caused by high delinquencies among subprime mortgage credit or housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit histories and little equity.

"In the Philippines, local markets experienced some degree of volatility mainly due to rising risk aversion but subsequently showed signs of gradual easing beginning in September," the BSP report said.

The local stock market saw a dramatic decline in share prices as the benchmark index fell to a low 2,884.3 on Aug. 17 from a high of 3,791.4 on July 5 this year.

BSP SAYS/B3

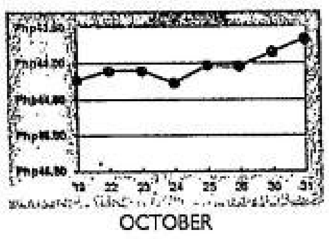
IN THIS ISSUE

▨ **Fed cuts** benchmark rate /B8

▨ **IT spending** in healthcare industry seen to increase /B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

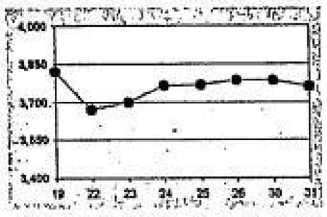
₱ 43.675 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 31, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



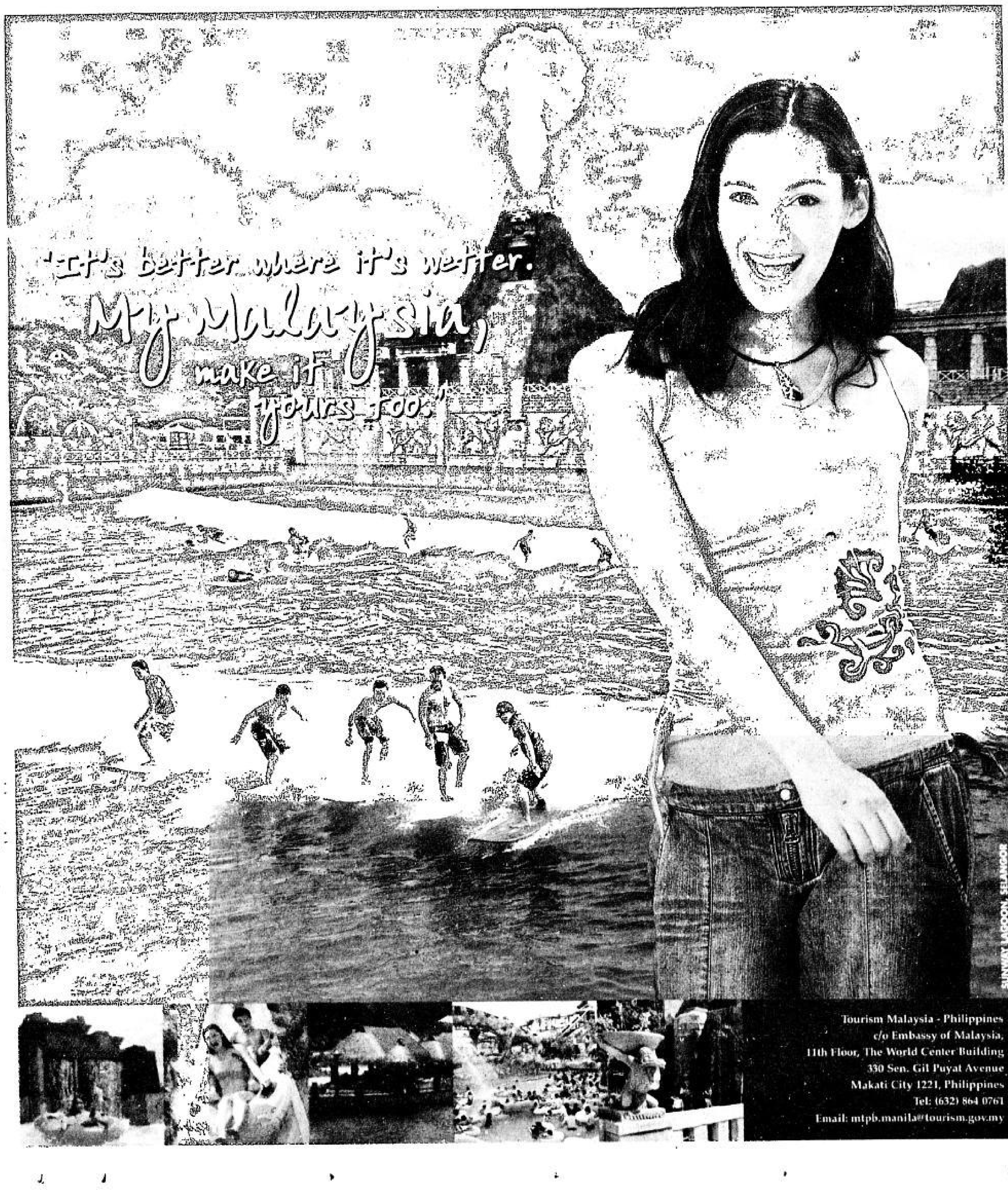
(See stock market report on Page B4)

Markets closed

FINANCIAL MARKETS WERE CLOSED Thursday and Friday for public holidays and trading will resume on Monday.

Stocks fell Wednesday, the last of the 2-trading day week, as the long weekend spurred profit-taking in moderately heavy volume. Monday was a holiday for nationwide village elections.

The decline was also partly due to worries over a possible legal suit against Ayala Land Inc. in connection with last month's deadly shopping mall explosion.


"It's better where it's wetter.
My Malaysia, make it yours too."
SUNWAY LAGOON, SELANGOR

Tourism Malaysia - Philippines
c/o Embassy of Malaysia,
11th Floor, The World Center Building
330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1221, Philippines
Tel: (632) 864 0761
Email: mtpb.manila@tourism.gov.my

Visit Malaysia

Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

Have a splashing good time at Malaysia's many extraordinary water theme parks – where water brings the bored and weary back to life. There's fun to be had on every slide, ride and pool and each waterpark has its own signature feature. Think you can surf with the best? Then take on the wave pool at the Sunway Lagoon Waterpark. If you're more of the adventurous type, then the Adventure River at the Tambun Lost World is for you. And no matter what you do, just don't stay dry.

TOURISM MALAYSIA

Home to:

malaysia AirAsia

Malaysia Truly Asia

Discover more at www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my

INVESTMENT FIRM TO GET $25M

ATR Kim Eng wins vs LBC in US bankruptcy court

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE US BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE Northern District of California ruled recently that the $24.49-million liability of LBC USA president Hugo Bonilla to publicly listed ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp. and ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. is "non-dischargeable" despite his filing for bankruptcy.

The bankruptcy court ruling means that Bonilla remains liable to ATR Kim Eng even after all his assets are fully liquidated and paid to the financial services company, until the final order is fully complied with, ATR Kim Eng said in a statement.

It will be recalled that in December 2006, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware ruled in favor of ATR Kim Eng in its case against LBC chair Carlos Araneta, LBC Bank president Liza Berenguer and Bonilla for waste and breach of fiduciary duty over the disappearance of substantial assets of LBC Global Corp., the Delaware-based holding company of the LBC Group.

The court ordered them to jointly and severally pay ATR Kim Eng the amount of $24.49 million, representing a damages award and pre-judgment interest, plus post-judgment interest and collection costs.

The Delaware judgment was subsequently registered in the Alameda County Superior Court in California for enforcement, and this has resulted in the recovery of cash from Bonilla in the amount of $530,000, or roughly P25 million.

Bonilla had since filed for bankruptcy and asked the court to dismiss the claim of ATR Kim Eng, contending that a corporate director is not a fiduciary.

A fiduciary is defined as an individual, corporation or association holding assets for another party, with the legal authority and duty to make decisions regarding financial matters on behalf of the other party. The bankruptcy court ruled against his contention.

"The ruling is the latest in the series of positive developments in our effort to settle this issue," said ATR Kim Eng director and executive vice president Renato Leveriza. "We are hopeful that our other efforts at enforcing the judgment will likewise be successful."

Leveriza said that they had also started enforcement activities in the Philippines. He said that the company had filed actions at the Regional Trial Court of Makati aimed at preventing the fraudulent transfer of assets of Araneta and co-defendants.

Apart from Araneta and his family, also named defendants in these motions were LBC Development Corp., LBC Express Inc., LBC Development Bank and LBC Properties Inc.

IBM cited as top QC taxpayer

IBM PHILIPPINES INC. HAS ONCE AGAIN been recognized as one of the top business taxpayers of Quezon City for 2006, following six consecutive years of being on the list.

The citation was presented to IBM chief financial officer Rommell D. Silva by the Quezon City government headed by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. in a ceremony held recently at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel.

IBM Philippines is one of the principal locators within Eastwood City in Libis. Several other business interests of the company—its BPO and call center arms, have also made Quezon City their base.

"At IBM Philippines, we value integrity and transparency," Silva said in accepting the award. "That is the way we do business. And being conscientious and honest with our tax obligations is something that we take seriously. It's also our way of giving back to the community we are in. This recognition inspires us to become an even better corporate citizen."

Business taxes were the largest revenue source of the Quezon City for 2006, according to Mayor Belmonte.

Aside from IBM Philippines, the other business taxpayers that were honored included Shoemart Inc., the Manila Electric Co., Mercury Drug Corp., ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., GMA Network Inc., the Araneta Group of Companies, Jollibee Foods Corp., Pacific Paints (Boysen) Philippines and McDonald's local franchise holder Golden Arches Development Corp.

The tribute to the Top Business Taxpayers for 2006 was part of the city's 68th founding anniversary celebration.

This year's ceremony was attended by Vice President Noli de Castro who emphasized in his message that Quezon City is a model of good urban governance and effective tax collections.

Quezon City is one of the primary business hubs in the country and in Metro Manila, he said. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Corporate gifts

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

AFTER TODAY'S COMMEMORATION of All Souls' Day, the run-up begins for the celebration of the happiest time of the year in our country.

At the start of the "ber" months, some radio and TV stations made a countdown for Christmas.

They even played excerpts of popular Christmas carols.

The shopping malls were not left behind in trying to create a momentum for the Christmas spirit, otherwise known as shopping fever, ahead of the giving of the Christmas bonus to the employees.

The merchandisers are aggressively pushing their sales in the remaining months of the year which usually account for almost a quarter of their annual revenue.

At the same time, the companies have to make available the funds needed to meet their 13th month pay (plus Christmas bonus if that has been their practice) obligation to their employees, and to buy gifts for their valued patrons and customers.

It's not easy deciding on who to include in the corporate gift list and what to give.

Usually, a committee is formed to discuss and resolve these questions.

Failure to include somebody's name in the list or giving the wrong kind of gift could have adverse effects on the relationship of the company with the affected person.

Native materials

Corporate gift-giving has become serious business that PR outfits include "gift counseling" in the menu of services they offer to their clients.

Often, the quality of the gifts is made directly proportional to the recipient's position in the corporate hierarchy or the amount of money he has generated to the giver.

While this benchmark is widely observed in the business community, some corporations have deviated from this norm without dampening the spirit of the holiday celebration.

For these "deviants," Christmas presents an opportunity to engage in meaningful corporate social activities, or a chance to help the less fortunate members of our society while at the same time performing certain activities that are associated with the season.

Rather than give imported goods as gifts, some companies enter into arrangements with residents of depressed communities for the production of decorative sets made of indigenous materials, or the preparation of food items that the community is famous for.

Last year, the woodcarvings from trees that were uprooted by a strong typhoon that hit Southern Luzon were used as Christmas gifts by several Makati-based companies.

The wooden sets were placed in attractive boxes and came with a brief, but touching, description of the place where they came from and the people who worked on them.

The fallen trees that would have otherwise been left to rot were converted to works of art that gave livelihood to a typhoon-ravaged community.

Food products

Knowing the Filipinos' appetite for food during Christmas, a company engaged in the remittance business ordered native cakes, or *bibingka*, from a town in Bulacan and gave them out as gifts to its clients.

A friend of mine who lives in Pampanga told me that as early as August, many households in his community are busy filling orders for pastillas, polvoron and other sweet-tasting products by corporations that use them as Christmas giveaways.

For me, the most imaginative gifts I heard of are the lanterns, or *parol*, that a company gave its customers and, to top it all, delivered to their houses.

I'm not sure if the company also installed the lanterns free of charge. If it did, that's really service de luxe! I'm sure the recipient will not forget the gesture for a long time.

Although the arrangements for the production of these products are intended to cover the Yuletide season only, the positive effects of the livelihood projects go beyond that period.

Most, if not all, of the originally conceived seasonal entrepreneurial activities develop into long-term businesses for the affected households or communities.

Donations

Going one step further, some companies donate instead the money they have set aside for gifts to charitable institutions that, in their opinion, can benefit most from the financial assistance.

The people in the corporation's gift list receive a letter stating that in lieu of a gift, a donation was made in their name to that institution.

The letter is usually accompanied by a note from the head of the institution acknowledging the donation with thanks.

There are other ways by which corporations can engage in corporate social responsibility this season without looking like the Scrooge who stole Christmas.

All it takes is to refer to the list of foundations or nongovernmental organizations accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and find out which of them have projects or activities that can use the money reserved for corporate gifts.

On a personal note, whenever I buy gifts for Christmas, I make it a point to go native.

I prefer to see my money go to the pocket of Filipino workers than to the foreign workers who manufactured the imported products. *(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph).*

www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

Be at one with your car.

▶ Different roads mean different ways of driving. Unless, of course, you are driving a Mercedes-Benz. The DIRECT CONTROL package with advanced direct steering and retuned suspension means agile handling in every twist and turn. It gives you driving pleasure whatever road you take. At Mercedes-Benz, comfort and precision go hand in hand. **Unlike any other.**

Mercedes-Benz

'Boy Bawang' seeks to expand presence in Middle East market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANUFACTURER OF THE ubiquitous Boy Bawang fried corn bits, or more popularly known as *cornik*, is launching a wider range of products in the $12-billion dollar halal market in the Middle East.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, KSK Food Products and five other local food makers will take part in the two-week International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Roadshow and Mission to the Middle East on Nov. 5-18.

KSK export manager Millet Celones said Boy Bawang had been introduced in the Middle East in 2004 but joining the mission was meant to expand its presence in the Islamic market.

Celones said KSK would promote its complete line of Boy Bawang products which now come in six flavors—garlic, hot garlic, adobo, barbecue, chili cheese and lechon manok—as well as launch its new Cowboy raisin-and-peanut cookies and Little Giant mini-egg cookies.

Earlier this year, small-scale *cornik* and *chichacorn* makers from Ilocos Norte made further inroad for the product as they were able to tap markets in Cyprus, Australia and Saudi Arabia through the Department of Trade and Industry's One Town One Product program.

Trade Undersecretary Carissa C. Evangelista said cornik was a popular food snack among Filipinos and the aim was to bring the product in countries where there were large Filipino communities.

The other companies joining the mission are Fisher Farms (processed milkfish); Florence Foods Corp. (bottled preserves, processed marine products, noodles, frozen fruits and vegetables, coconut products); Fortress Food Manufacturing Corp. (canned goat meat products, canned vegetable products); Q-Phil Products International (noodles, bottled sweet preserves), and RFM Corp. (rice-based mixes, hotcake mixes, pancit noodles, flavored drinks, ice cream, processed meat).

Citem said the mission was composed of manufacturers and exporters with halal-certified products and which have plans of expanding their export base in the lucrative and large collective markets of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Petron, Shell asked to pay Oct. tax liabilities

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS SAID IT WAS asking Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to settle their duty and tax liabilities for October worth P3.52 billion to help the agency meet its collection target for the month.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the BOC was collecting P2 billion from Petron and another P1.52 from Shell. He said the amount was crucial in meeting Custom's collection target for October.

"We are hoping to exceed our target for October and for the last two months of the year, so we are intensifying our collection efforts," Morales told reporters.

The BOC was tasked to collect P21.7 billion in duties and import taxes for October alone. For the entire year, the BOC is expected to raise at least P228.2 billion.

Morales said that as of last Friday, the BOC was still P4 billion short of its collection target for October. He said, however, that with the payments expected from Petron and Shell, and other smaller collectibles, the BOC had a chance of meeting its target for the month.

The government aims to limit its budget deficit to only P63 billion this year, lower than the P64.8 billion recorded last year.

Morales said hitting the bureau's revenue collection target this year was difficult because of the strong peso.

He said the BOC was losing P2.7 billion in potential revenue collection a year for every unit of appreciation of the peso.

Morales said the government set its collection goal for BOC using a peso-dollar average exchange rate of 48-to-1. The peso, however, has been much stronger, even breaking into the 43-to-$1 territory this week.

The Development Budget and Coordination Committee (DBCC), the interagency body tasked to set government's fiscal and macroeconomic targets, earlier estimated that the peso appreciation could drag BOC's duty and import tax collection down to only P223 billion this year instead of the BOC's actual target of P228.2 billion.

The Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR and a member of the DBCC, said the BOC's target would stay at P228.2 billion despite the stronger-than-expected peso.

Finance officials said that while the appreciation of the peso was pulling down the BOC collection, measures to improve efficiency in revenue collection and plug leakages due to smuggling and underdeclaration should offset the losses.

MAKATI SHANGRILA
RIZAL BALLROOM
FUNCTION ROOMS A,B,&C
AVAILABLE JAN.6,2008
CONTACT JEN JAVILLONA
TEL 813-8888 LOC.7469

PRULINK Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	PRU LIFE U.K. Current Week October 23, 2007	Last Week October 16, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.63927	1.83846
Managed Fund - Peso	1.94172	1.95624
Growth Fund - Peso	1.94910	2.00864
Equity Fund - Peso	1.00000	
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.4278	1.4235

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE
Wealth Builder
Wealth Builder
Wealth SECURE
Investment funds of **Wealth Series**

UNIT PRICES (in Php)	Oct 29,2007	Oct 22,2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.301733	1.297636
Balanced Fund	1.526858	1.506319
Equity Fund	1.892983	1.848520
Dollar Fixed Income Fund	1.003101	1.000755

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph

KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL
BUYER'S AVENUE
"Where all roads leads to the one "perfect" shopping spot"

shop
@the
fort
bazaar
2007

November 3-4, 2007
November 10-11, 2007
November 17-18, 2007
November 24-25, 2007
December 1-2, 2007

Saturday & Sunday
10:00am to 8:00 pm
NBC TENT
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
TAGUIG, METRO MANILA

World-class IKEA do-it-yourself furniture is here! Low-cost, modern, user-friendly! New Arrivals! Get the latest from IKEA!

JOHN BOSCO ENTERPRISES
Capiz Craft beautiful accent pieces for your home or office. Great gift ideas for your early Holiday shopping.

For more information please call: 372.8453 / 374.3726

Forex reserves . . .

From page B1

The fourth quarter is historically a strong season for overseas Filipino workers' remittances.

"There will still be (outflows due to) debt repayments and the government will also buy dollars from the central bank for its debt servicing," the official said.

But the official said a yearend level of $31 billion would still represent a significant build-up compared to the end-2006 GIR level of about $27 billion.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

In terms of reserve adequacy, the country's current GIR level can cover 5.5 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income. It is also equivalent to 5.2 times the country's short-term external debt based on original maturity and 3.1 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of a year or less plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans falling due within the next 12 months.

The country's strong foreign reserve build-up since the start of the year has been supported by remittances from OFWs, foreign direct investment and portfolio investments. These inflows have allowed the BSP to become a heavy buyer of dollars at the Philippine Dealing System.

Building up its GIR is also one way of curbing the peso's appreciation against the dollar in view of a bearish trend for the greenback.

BSP says credit . . .

From page B1

Correspondingly, returns on equity and dollar-denominated bond exposures of most local unit investment trust funds and mutual funds were affected with the degree of impact varying across different funds.

The peso also traded on the downside while interest rate spreads on Philippine bonds widened during the period.

But since then, the BSP noted that the market has recovered as investor sentiment improved following the US Federal Reserve's interest rate cut.

Lower interest rates in the world's biggest economy make high-yielding assets from emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive to investors.

The BSP also reported that Philippine banks had very minimal exposures in structured products such as collateralized debt obligations and credit-linked notes and none of them had underlying assets that were credit-risky like subprime mortgages in the US.

To a large extent, the BSP said the limited impact of the external shock could be attributed to the country's sound economic fundamentals as indicated by its solid output growth, low inflation and strong external payments position.

"Past fiscal and financial sector reforms also contributed in strengthening the economy's ability to withstand shocks," the BSP said.

But notwithstanding the limited effect of the crisis, the BSP vowed that it would be ready to take preemptive measures to bolster confidence given the uncertainties in the financial market.

"The BSP also continues to monitor closely the situation so that threats to the stability of the financial system could be addressed promptly," the report said.

In its report, the BSP said the growth of the US subprime mortgage market was facilitated by several legal milestones instituted by the US government, such as state imposition of interest rate caps on housing loans, tax deductible interest on residential mortgages and legal provisions on automatic underwriting and securitization.

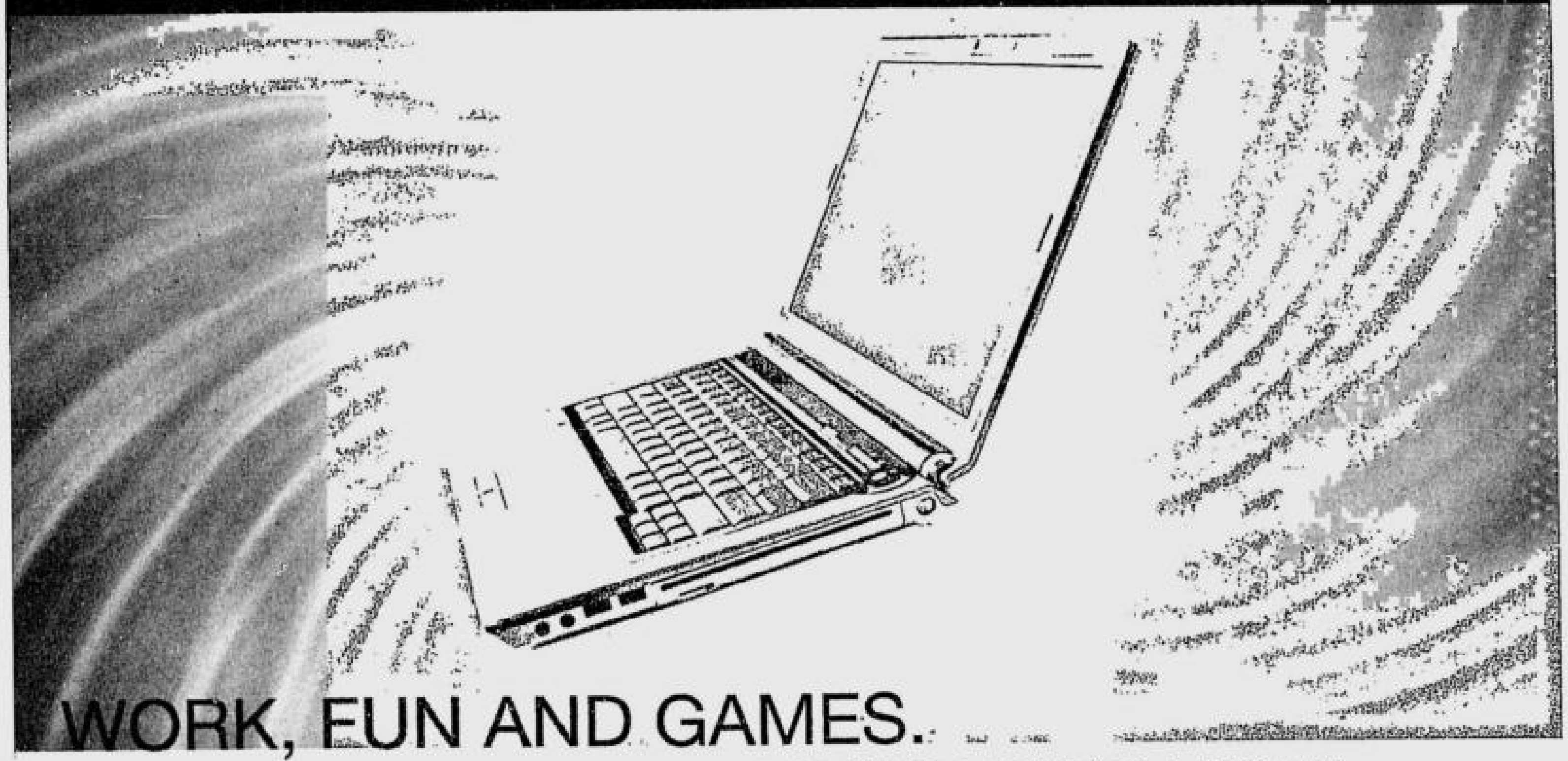
It noted that housing affordability reached a point where a significant portion of borrowers were overstretching their finances by purchasing risky products, many of which were backed by low-quality assets.

Thus, when the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates amid steady housing prices, many borrowers ended up defaulting on their loan payments as prepayment and refinancing options were not feasible due to inadequate housing equity.

At the same time, strong market preference for higher-yielding securities in 2005 to 2006 may have led to more liberal underwriting standards, the BSP noted.

"Lending safeguards were relaxed as intermediaries profited primarily from loan volumes rather than from ensuring loan quality," the BSP said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Lenovo™ recommends Windows Vista® Home Premium.



WORK, FUN AND GAMES.
THEY GO BEST WITH WINDOWS VISTA.

Lenovo and Windows Vista® operating systems make an awesome combination.
That's because Windows Vista® compliments the Lenovo PC's multimedia capabilities like Dolby® Home Theatre® Surround Sound, built-in subwoofers, TV Tuners and integrated cameras that bring alive your movies, music, games, videos and photos. Combine all that with high-end graphics and Lenovo's legendary engineering and you've got the perfect way to play - or work, if you have to - anywhere you like.

LENOVO Y410 NOTEBOOK

- Intel® Centrino® Duo processor technology Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor T7100 (1.80GHz, 800MHz FSB, 2MB L2 Cache)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium
- 1GB DDR2 SDRAM
- 120GB SATA HDD (5400 rpm)
- Dual Layer Multiburner Drive (DVDRW)
- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator X3100
- 6-cell Li-Ion Battery
- 14.1" Widescreen WXGA with VibrantView
- 1-year Carry-in Warranty*

Php65,995 (775732A) ᛒ 📷 📶

LENOVO Y400 NOTEBOOK

- Intel® Centrino® Duo processor technology Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor T5500 (1.66GHz, 667MHz FSB, 2MB L2 Cache)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium
- 1GB DDR2 SDRAM
- 160GB SATA HDD (7200 rpm)
- Dual Layer Multiburner Drive (DVDRW)
- nVidia® GeForce® GO 7300 (Discrete) Graphic Card with up to 256MB TurboCache™
- 6-cell Li-Ion Battery
- 14.1" Widescreen WXGA with VibrantView
- 1-year Carry-in Warranty

Php55,995 (945443A) ᛒ 📶

LENOVO Y300 NOTEBOOK

- Intel® Centrino® Duo processor technology Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2250 (1.73GHz, 533MHz FSB, 2MB L2 Cache)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic
- 512MB DDR2 SDRAM
- 80GB SATA HDD
- Dual Layer Multiburner Drive (DVDRW)
- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator 950 (up to 128MB)
- 6-cell Li-Ion Battery
- 13.1" Widescreen WXGA with VibrantView
- 1-year Carry-in Warranty*

Php73,295 (944925O) ᛒ 📷 📶

Windows Vista
Home Premium

Windows Vista® with Microsoft® Windows Media® Player 11 lets you choose music online, browse album art thumbnails and watch movies with Windows Media® Center². Windows Vista® also brings your gaming experiences to life with enhanced 3-D graphics and cutting-edge technology that provides jaw-dropping visuals.

ᛒ Bluetooth 📷 Webcam 📶 Wireless

For enquiries call 1800 1651 0438 or contact your nearest Lenovo dealer!
(Call center operation hours: Monday - Friday [except public holidays] - 8:30am to 6:00pm)
Log on to www.lenovo.com/ph

lenovo
NEW WORLD. NEW THINKING.™

GMA Resellers: ABC Abby Business Corp. 7214060 • Accent Micro Technologies, Inc. 6363563 • Advance Microsystems Corp 6354181 • Advance Solutions, Inc 5263935 • American Technologies, Inc 7230601 • Aries IT Systems, Inc 7521274 • Avesa Information Systems 7475371 • Axis Computer, Inc. 7693056 • Axus Innovation Technologies, Inc 6878500 • Ayala Systems Technology Inc. 8132494 • BizMac – Business Machines Corp 8823355 • Columbia Technologies, Inc 4007981 • Comgate Systems Technology 6354804 • Contronics Computer Center 7271603 • Conex Information System 8671345• Creative Technologies, Inc. 4004222 • Datalogic Systems Corporation 8504782 • Electroworld, Inc 6318181 • Equitable Computer Services, Inc. 8133801 • Fastlink Computer Company 4138306 • First Data Corp. 8936657 • Fritz & Macziol Asia Inc 8185250 • Gemora Electronic Marketing & Services 8959812 • Hytech Integrated Products, Inc 7221122 loc. 714 • Imaginet International, Inc. 8959755 • Information Products Corporation 8953436 • Infoworx, Inc. 8974521 • Integrated Computer Systems, Inc 7273801 • JPMED Asian Pacific Incorporated 8438300 • Mediasoft Technologies Corp. 2422634 • MG Business Systems, Inc. 3727926 • Micro Image International, Corp 8404050 • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corp. 8404583 loc. 115 • Microbase, Inc 8137603 • MicroGold Information Solutions & Products, Inc. 8885686 • Microphase Corporation 8126814 • Microstation Computer Center 6371474 • Next Innovation, Inc. 6874913 • Northgate Technologies, Inc 8937154 • Pasadena Technologies, Inc 8991842 • PC Express Information Technology, Inc. 7263400 • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc 8195106 • Prime Access Marketing 4214935 • Productivity Tech Services, Inc 8906713 • Proton Microsystems, Inc./ Octagon Computer 6267152 • Proavantage Systems, Inc. 8331678 • Questronix Corporation 8577300 • Right Computer Systems 8137501 • Shellsoft Technology Corp. 7408431 loc. 104 • Silicon Valley Computer Center 3716868 • SIM Computer Sales, Inc 8960170 • Tetra Technologies Distribution, Inc. 7182664 • Unison Computer Systems, Inc. 3745888 • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corp 9257823 • Villman Computer Systems Inc. 9290411 • Virtuality Business Machines & Software Solutions, Inc. 7277632 • WELCOM Telecom Supermarket 8880023/24• Zenshin Systems Corporation 3060395 **South Resellers:** BCG Computers (034) 4342539 • CBX Corporation (032) 2540584 • Chu Han Lang (CHL) Computer Center (032) 2541090 • Columbia Computer Center - Davao (082) 2228808 • Computer World Marketing (082) 2213752 • Concept Computer (033) 3377221 • Datalan Communications (085) 3412470 • Datalink Technologies (034) 4337261 loc. 112 • Datavision Sales Center (063) 2213189 • Dataworld Computer Corporation (088) 8575484 • DC Tech Micro Services, Inc. (082) 2273311 • Della Merchandising (033) 3383190 • DG Tech Business Computer System (033) 2267800 • Digital Interface Co (082) 2258151 • DMC Quasi Sales and Services (032) 2344672 • Electrocomputer Data Systems (053) 3255904 • Electroworld(032) 2325887, 2320751, 2321659 • Emcor, Inc. - Advanced Technology Systems (ATS) (082) 2250712 • Excel Tech Computers (038) 2353569 • Fastlink Computer Company (082) 3057978 • Globalchips Technologies Company (088) 8575414 • Gold Telecomm Specialist, Inc (032) 2324792 • HPS Software & Communication Corporation (032) 4204633 • Infonet Solutions, Inc (032) 2548851 • iThink Technologies (082) 2271924 • Lenton Marketing, Inc (032) 2550005 • MDR Microware Sales (032) 2554415 • Microhouse Computer Center (063) 2213693 • Microtronix Marketing (088) 8565217 • Modern Teknika Corp (032) 2546741 • Mosaic Communications (035) 2256702 • MTO Technotrends (032) 4215855 • Negros Saturn Marketing (034) 4330108 • Ng Khai Development Corp (032) 3462028 • Nutech Marketing (032) 2535451 • Philbytes, Inc. (032) 2329483 • Powertech Specialists, Inc. (082) 2990703 • The Computer Authority (032) 4158408 • Thinking Tools (032)3452227, 2341788 • Tinnet Multimedia Systems Corporation (032) 2557809 • Wired Systems Corporation (032) 2555282 • X-Computer Sales and Services (032) 2558115

Lenovo, the Lenovo logo, ThinkPad, ThinkCentre and New World. New Thinking are trademarks of Lenovo. ©2007 Lenovo. All rights reserved. Microsoft, Windows and Vista are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Centrino Logo, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Intel Viiv, Intel vPro, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, Xeon, and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. Every effort has been made to check for accuracy. Lenovo will not be liable for any inadvertent error which may occur in editorial or typography in this advertisement. All images are for illustrative purpose only. Virus recovery button can help restore system to previously saved uninfected state, does not include anti-virus software.

Fed cuts benchmark rate

Quarter percentage point reduction expected to ease strain of housing slump on US economy

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL RESERVE has sliced an important interest rate—its second reduction in the last six weeks—to help the US economy survive the strains of a deepening housing slump that is likely to crimp growth in coming months.

Fed Chair Ben Bernanke and all but one of his colleagues on Wednesday agreed to lower the federal funds rate by one-quarter percentage point to 4.50 percent at the end of a two-day meeting.

"The pace of economic expansion will likely slow in the near term, partly reflecting the intensification of the housing correction," the Fed acknowledged in a statement explaining its action.

The funds rate affects many other interest rates charged to millions of individuals and businesses. It is the Fed's most potent tool for influencing economic activity.

In response, commercial banks, including Bank of America, Wells Fargo and KeyCorp., announced that they were cutting their prime lending rate—for certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans—by a corresponding amount to 7.50 percent.

The rationale behind the cuts is that the lower borrowing costs will induce people and businesses to boost spending, energizing economic activity.

Wall Street cheered the Fed action. The Dow Jones industrials jumped 137.54 points to close at 13,930.01.

The Fed policymakers supporting Wednesday's rate cut said the action—along with a rate reduction in September—was needed to "forestall some of the adverse effects on the broader economy" that might arise from the housing and credit troubles that have wreaked havoc on Wall Street over the past few months.

Fed policymakers indicated the two rate cuts ordered so far may be sufficient to help the economy make its way safely through the trouble spots.

They said the risks to the economy from inflation "roughly balance," or are equal to, the risks of a serious downturn in economic growth. Previously, the risks of a recession were seen as more of a threat to the country's economic health.

The 9-1 decision to cut rates on Wednesday was opposed by Thomas Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He preferred no change in the funds rate.

So far, the economy has shown amazing resilience to the housing and credit strains.

The economy grew at a brisk 3.9 percent pace in the summer, the fastest in 1 1/2 years, the government reported Wednesday. The impressive performance came even as the housing market sank deeper into the doldrums.

Fed policymakers, in their statement, said the economy turned in a "solid" performance in the third quarter. They also said that "strains from financial markets have eased somewhat on balance."

Even so, economic growth is expected to slow to a pace of around 2 percent or less in the current October-to-December period as the toll of the deteriorating housing market catches up with consumers and chills their spending.

As another bolstering move, the Fed also sliced its lending rate to banks by one-quarter percentage point on Wednesday. That was the third cut to that rate since mid-August.

Complicating the Fed's job to keep the economy and inflation on an even keel is surging oil prices. They soared to a record near $95 a barrel on Wednesday.

The Fed said "recent increases in energy and commodity prices, among other factors, have put renewed upward pressure on inflation."

The Fed said that, while some inflation barometers that exclude energy and food prices have improved modestly this year, some inflation risks remain. They pledged to "monitor inflation developments carefully." *AP*

Rate cut seen to have limited impact on suffering banks

WASHINGTON—THE INTEREST RATE CUT that Wall Street believes will buffer the economy from housing market woes is unlikely to give much of a boost to suffering banks and homebuilders in the near term, analysts say.

The Federal Reserve policymaking committee is expected to approve cutting a key short-term rate at least a quarter percentage point Wednesday to help the economy get through a deeper-than-expected housing slump and credit crunch that accelerated in August.

Investors are betting the US central bank will reduce the federal funds rate, the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans, to 4.5 percent. Over the next 12 to 18 months, lower short-term rates will aid the overall economy because many equity credit lines and some credit card rates are pegged to short-term market rates.

Yet the Fed's efforts now, on top of a half-percentage-point rate cut in September, won't change the outlook much, if at all, for companies on the front lines of surging mortgage defaults and a dried-up market for complex securities backed by home loans.

"The problems in the housing market, the problems in the credit markets, are not easily solved by the Fed cutting rates," said Steve East, chief economist for investment bank Friedman Billings, Ramsey & Co. in Arlington, Virginia, who sees the Fed making three quarter-point cuts by January and puts the odds of a recession in 2008 at 60 percent.

The thinking is that lenders can improve battered balance sheets if they have to pay less for money they borrow short-term while the rate they charge borrowers for long-term loans holds steady or moves higher. Yet analysts say problems in the credit markets extend beyond the benefits of small rate cuts.

Struggling homebuilders, such as D.R. Horton Inc., Lennar Corp. and Pulte Homes Inc., are faced with tightened lending standards and severely limited demand. Many would-be buyers are unable to qualify for loan approvals, even if rates move lower.

Lower interest rates are "certainly not the panacea" for getting the housing market back on track, said UBS homebuilding analyst David Goldberg.

The median US home price nationwide fell for the eighth consecutive month in August, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller index released Tuesday. Fifteen of 20 metropolitan areas included in the index declined. Many experts predict housing prices will fall further before demand rebounds.

Jefferson Harralson, a banking analyst with Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc. who follows banks such as Bank of America Corp. and Wachovia Corp., said an acceleration in losses from defaults "seems to be a given, whether or not a rate cut occurs."

He says home equity lines of credit will be less likely to default if rates are lower. But that is hardly a revenue cure for banks in an environment in which housing prices continue to fall and foreclosures continue to rise.

"The home equity business isn't going to be a growth business," Harralson said. *AP*

Asian stocks, oil hit new peaks after Fed decision

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS and oil prices hit record highs on Thursday as a Federal Reserve rate cut and strong growth data eased concerns about the impact of a housing slump on the US economy.

European stocks were poised to track Asia and a firm Wall Street.

The Fed's rate cut and the dollar's general weakness, as well as a steep fall in US crude inventories, sent oil up nearly 2 percent to $96.24 a barrel for the first time. Oil's rise in turn drove spot gold to a 28-year peak near $800 an ounce.

Shares of Asian exporters were boosted by the US rate cut and data that showed the world's biggest economy and Asia's main export market grew at a surprisingly brisk 3.9 percent annual rate in the third quarter despite the housing downturn and financial market gyrations during the period.

Still, some analysts worried that markets could swing lower since the Federal Reserve also signaled on Wednesday that more rate reductions were unlikely if the economy held up.

"Though the Fed's rate cut is a sure positive to market sentiment, there is almost the same level of caution over the pace of rally," said Lee Woo-hyun, a market analyst at Kyobo Securities in Seoul. "With most good news out of the bag, I see a good chance of a correction."

Tokyo's Nikkei average rose 0.8 percent to a two-week closing high, while MSCI's measure of other Asia Pacific stocks advanced nearly 0.8 percent by 0605 GMT.

The MSCI index hit a record high, bringing total gains this year to nearly 50 percent.

The Asia stocks rally pushed MSCI's world equity index to a record high, taking this year's rise to 16 percent.

The oil and gold rally pushed commodity stocks higher.

Australian gold producer Newcrest Mining rose 3.4 percent, and Japanese energy firm Nippon Oil added 4.2 percent.

Asia's top refiner Sinopec, which faces China's state-capped fuel prices, rallied 9 percent after Beijing unexpectedly lifted domestic gasoline and diesel prices by a tenth on Thursday, the first increase in 17 months.

Japanese exporters were also in favor, driven by a weaker yen, and hopes the US rate cut will help spur US consumers, who generate about two-thirds of US economic activity.

Investors sold Taiwan's UMC after the world's No. 2 contract chip maker forecast a weak fourth quarter, sending the stock down 4 percent.

UMC's drop weighed on Taiwan's TAIEX, which closed 1.2 percent lower.

South Korea's KOSPI set a new life high before settling a touch lower, but Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index posted a record-closing high.

The dollar was steadier after sliding to a record low against the euro overnight, but was seen likely to remain weak unless upcoming US data offered support.

After climbing to a life high just above $1.45, the euro traded at $1.4467 in afternoon Asian trade.

The dollar was steady above 115 yen as the Japanese unit struggled in the face of stronger equity markets. *Reuters*

CURRENCIES

October 31, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.692569	1.000000	43.9470
Japan	Yen	0.006042	0.008724	0.3834
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432717	2.068700	90.9132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.089364	0.129032	5.6706
Switzerland	Franc	0.597867	0.863260	37.9377
Canada	Dollar	0.727336	1.050200	46.1531
Singapore	Dollar	0.477601	0.689608	30.3062
Australia	Dollar	0.636962	0.919709	40.4185
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.837491	2.653153	116.5981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.185174	0.267373	11.7502
Brunei	Dollar	0.475960	0.687238	30.2020
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022022	0.031797	1.3974
UAE	Dirham	0.188608	0.272331	11.9681
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.443900	63.4551
Korea	Won	0.000764	0.001103	0.0485
China	Yuan**	0.092703	0.133854	5.8825
Denmark	Kroner	0.134177	0.193738	8.5142
India	Rupee	0.017622	0.025445	1.1182
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207232	0.299222	13.1499
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531193	0.766989	33.7069
Sweden	Kroner	0.108775	0.157060	6.9023
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021375	0.030863	1.3563

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 30, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 30, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 31, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.4	8.4	32,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	62	62.5	62	62.5	1,098,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	68	65.5	65.5	4,976,400
748	536	China Banking Corp.	715	715	710	710	1,030
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	360,000
75.5	45.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	62	62.5	61.5	62	2,727,900
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	48.5	49	48.5	48.5	936,400
39.57	17.17	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27.5	29	27.5	29	1,427,500
90	60.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	78.5	76	78.5	41,400
66	45.99	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50	50	50	137,400
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.02	1.98	2	3,405,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	14.25	14.75	13.75	14.75	1,276,400
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	4,000
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.18	1.02	1.06	890,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.5	4,556,000
1,950.00	1,570.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,930.00	1,950.00	1,390
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	754,000
3.1	1.22	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	60,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,300.00	1,345.00	1,270.00	1,300.00	15,280
2,470.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,400.00	2,470.00	2,400.00	2,470.00	1,760
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.56	145,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	8,379,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60	59.5	60	1,644,300
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86.5	86	86	2,170,000
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.75	17	2,492,500
105.45	23.64	Manila Electric Co.	83	83	81.5	82.5	1,700,800
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	27,653,000
7	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.9	7	6.7	7	7,306,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8	8.1	8	8	26,000
2.3	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	2.06	2.06	1.92	1.96	10,904,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	26,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.8	535,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc	27	27	27	27	250,100
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	51	51	51	51	598,600
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	650,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	417,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	40,000
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	62	62	61.5	62	508,600
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	13,305,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	1,065,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	1,820,000
7	2.6	Republic Cement Corp	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	845,000
2	0.48	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	3,988,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	126,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	3,110,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.6	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	152,000
0.17	0.044	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.145	551,200,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	4,790,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	249,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	21,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	2,710,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Gorp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	235,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.4	17,297,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.81	0.84	0.81	0.83	240,000
1.5	0.33	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.44	2,985,000
620	397.92	Ayala Corp.	615	620	600	620	385,590
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.75	14.75	14	14.5	17,700
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.55	4.35	4.55	3,522,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	12	10.75	12	6,334,700
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.8	25,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2	2	2	2	6,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	235,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	7	7	6.9	7	1,443,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	108,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.205	0.22	0.205	0.215	75,050,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.48	1,940,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	55,000
452.5	263.74	SM Investments Corp.	380	380	375	380	565,550
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	77,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	6,390,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.82	490,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.52	858,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	15	16.75	13.25	16.75	41,700
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	3,940,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.68	420,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc	1.46	1.5	1.4	1.5	705,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.7	76,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15	15	23,749,600
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	1,781,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	30,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	750,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	14,490,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	7,360,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	8,248,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.82	1.88	19,391,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	600,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.4	46,839,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.75	4.9	4.75	4.9	184,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.49	0.49	4,280,000
23	14.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	2,361,500
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.45	429,000
13.5	7.2	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	10,755,600
3.25	1.32	Shang Properties Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	661,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	1,600,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.5	10,219,000
4.5	0.38	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc	2.75	3.25	2.75	3.15	13,326,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	33.5	34	33.5	34	8,700
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.8	119,000
		TELECOMMUINCATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	127,000
1,745.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,715.00	1,720.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	80,820
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,010.00	3,010.00	2,990.00	3,005.00	111,050
8.1	5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	1,246,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.4	9.4	104,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.1	9.2	9	9.2	1,176,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.042	0.042	0.041	0.042	10,000,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	17.5	15.5	17.5	17,600
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	13,190,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	780,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	28,600,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	3,558,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	25,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	628,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	57,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	17,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp	9.9	10.5	9.9	10.5	4,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	34,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	27,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.7	0.74	6,950,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.81	1,400,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	4,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	21,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.3	973,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	45,000
30	10.5	Paxys Inc	11	11	11	11	980,500
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	16,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	792,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	93,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16	15.5	15.75	2,590,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	14	13	13	408,700
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	11.25	10	11	2,249,300
3.1	0.57	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.55	2.65	2.48	2.6	51,494,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,460,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	2,050,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	31,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	55,300,000
30	1.98	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	25.5	24	25	2,282,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	187,800,000
10.75	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.25	10.5	10	10.5	20,007,400
46.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	43	46.5	43	45	435,800
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.88	0.92	0.84	0.89	2,740,000
1.8	0.68	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.28	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,700,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,010,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	450,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	34,700,000
29	8.6	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	19	19	19	19	4,600
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	245,000
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.031	604,500,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	951.58 DOWN	3.17	22,847,960	743,239,715.00
Industrial	4,695.68 DOWN	4.68	89,610,000	1,096,986,420.00
Holding Firms	2,225.59 UP	17.57	922,646,540	779,381,390.00
Property	1,682.34 DOWN	32.07	401,397,698	1,075,246,373.60
Service	1,833.98 DOWN	5.64	70,282,770	560,238,740.00
Mining & Oil	8,539.86 UP	96.71	1,480,862,200	538,705,940.00
All Shares Index	2,349.83 DOWN	5.05		
PSEI	3,758.97 DOWN	24.46		
	GRAND TOTALS		2,987,647,168	4,793,798,578.60

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE TECHNISTOCK PSE

Manila Auto Salon set Nov. 15

THOUSANDS OF MOTORING ENthusiasts are expected to attend the Manila Auto Salon (MAS) 2007-the country's biggest showcase of latest automotive aftermarket technology-from Nov. 15 to 18 at the SMX Convention Center on Seashell Drive, SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

MAS 2007 will showcase custom cars, sport trucks and motorcycles involving more than 150 vehicles in the newly built 9,130-sqm modern trade show facility.

The event will also highlight the 1st Mobile Electronics and Technology Show expected to attract local audiophiles.

Foreign experts on auto audio and video system were also invited as panel judges on the conduct of the International Auto Sound Challenge Association (Iasca) sound competition for the country's best mobile installers.

The MAS 2007 will highlight competitions on custom cars, sport trucks and motorcycles.

Exciting awards also await participants on the Ultimate Tuner Award, Custom Vehicle Design Competition, Resto-Mod Displays of Classic and Vintage Cars and motorcycles.

There will be exhibits on the Milestones in World Motor Sports Exhibition, MAS Chill Out Sessions, Car Club Tailgate Party, garage tech seminar/workshops and outdoor races.

UE prexy talks 'global' in China

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST (UE) president and chief academic officer Dr. Ester Albano Garcia speaks at the ongoing plenary session of the forum on "Developments in the Education of Nursing Professionals in China, the United Kingdom and the Philippines" sponsored by the China Guanghua Nurse Fund/China Guanghua Science and Technology Foundation at Railway Mansion, Beijing, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

Garcia, former Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), gives a presentation on behalf of the Philippine academe in general and of UE in particular, on the influx of international students into local colleges and universities and specifically into UE. Her talk highlights UE as a "global university" due to the continued enrollment of a considerable number of foreign students in UE's three campuses-UE Manila, UE Caloocan and the UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City, and UE's having graduated numerous foreign students who are now accomplished professionals in their respective homelands or elsewhere. She will also present key UE course offerings of high interest to Chinese students: Doctor of Dental Medicine, Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) major in English, and Master of Education (MAEd) major in English as a Second Language.

GARCIA

Accompanying Garcia to China are UE Graduate School Dean Danilo M. Yanga and UE College of Dentistry Dean Brenda Dey, who will act as resource persons during the president's talk. The deans will visit various schools in Beijing, where Yanga will discuss the details of UE's Master's degrees in English, while Dey will talk on UE's Dentistry undergraduate program including a Philippine dental education system backgrounder.

Las Paellas Café: More than paella

THERE'S MORE THAN JUST paellas at the newly opened Las Paellas Café in Greenhills. Black Angus Roast Beef, Angus Tapa, Chorizo Pasta, Seafood Pomelo Salad (that's mixed greens tossed in pomelo vinaigrette and topped with fresh tomatoes, sweet pomelo, marinated gambas and calamares if you're wondering), Pork Chop Andaluz, and Peppered Steak just to name a few-plus various ice cream concoctions and breakfast fare.

"Yes, we've really expanded the menu," acknowledges owner Ramon del Gallego. Las Paellas Café is actually a reincarnation from Las Paellas Restaurant, which Ramon put up in the late 90s. "It's evolved into a 'Spanish-inspired' casual dining family restaurant. It's a Spanish-inspired restaurant formed by the Filipino culture."

And sensing their audience's clamor for more dishes and a more relaxed dining ambiance, Ramon, along with chef and restaurant consultant John Cu-Unjieng, came up with Las Paellas Café. The first branch sprouted in BF Homes Paranaque in 2005, followed by the second one in Filinvest Mall in 2006. The third one, located at The Promenade in Greenhills, opened July of this year.

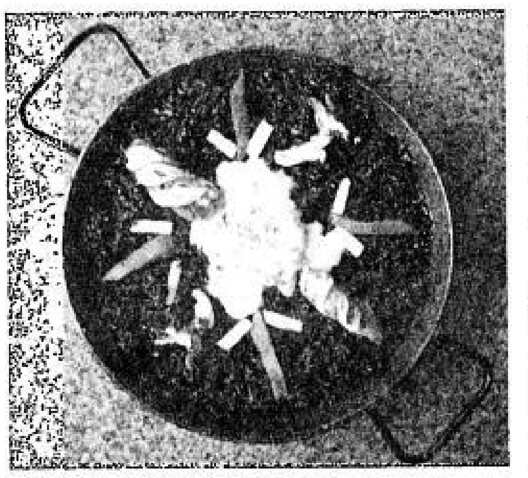
All have opened to warm response. "I'm really excited to see our new concept has reached a larger market. Unlike before, the new Las Paellas Café is an 'everyday' place. It's nice to see our regular guests and a lot of first-timers who never tried Las Paellas before!" adds John, "we've really reached a bigger audience."

This once traditional Spanish resto has evolved into brighter, more laidback, friendly cafe. "We gave customers what they were looking for," says Ramon. "That's more choices and more affordable prices."

"It also gave me more freedom to do what I felt with what the concept needed without limiting myself to being 'traditionally Spanish'," adds Ramon.

Of course, the classic menu favorites are maintained-at lower prices: Paella Valenciana (P395), Paella Negra (P375), and Paella Marinera (P395). All are served with the same authentic flavorful goodness of the original Las Paellas. There are new bestsellers, though, such as the aforementioned Angus Tapa, Roasted Black Angus Roast Beef, and Chorizo Pasta.

"We'd like our customers to see Las Paellas Café as an extension of their homes," says John. "It's everyday favorites enjoyed in a comfortable atmosphere."


PAELLA Negra

BLACK Angus Roast Beef

You'll surely have that at Las Paellas Café!

Las Paellas Café is located on the second floor of The Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan. For take out and inquiries, call 723-7485. More branches are located at Festival Supermall (842-6919) and BF Commercial Paranaque (807-9511).

SYDENHAM IN PAP CONVENTION

Pharmaceutical toll manufacturing firm Sydenham Laboratories Inc, the company behind health products such as Jus' 4 Kids Plus and Peak, recently participated in this year's annual convention of the Perinatal Association of the Philippines (PAP). As part of the company's participation in the event held at the Century Park Hotel, Sydenham set up a booth to exhibit its health and beverage products. PAP is an organization devoted to address issues concerning perinatal health. Perinatal is the period occurring around the time of birth. For its part, Sydenham advocates health and wellness through its two flagship products-Jus' 4 Kids Plus and Peak. Specially formulated for children, Jus' 4 Kids Plus contains chlorella growth factor or CGF, which helps promote growth, and Taurine, which aids in brain development. Jus' 4 Kids Plus is fortified with Vitamins A, C, E, Zinc, and Iodine-micronutrients that have a profound impact on the growth and immune system of children. Peak, on the other hand, is suited for adults with active or stressful lifestyles. Enhanced with L-Carnitine, Taurine, Calcium, vitamins, and minerals, Peak is formulated to improve energy and memory as well as fight stress. Jus' 4 Kids Plus is available at leading supermarkets nationwide, including Ever Supermarkets, Landmark, Puregold, Robinsons, Rustan's Supermarkets, Shopwise, SM Supermarkets, South Supermarket, Valuepoint, and Waltermart while Peak is available in various canteens. Shown are (from left): Dr. Socorro Mendoza and Dr. Helen Belmonte-Sy of PAP with Sydenham Laboratories marketing manager Regina Peña.

Comddap 2007: 'IT's your life!'

THE COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS, DIStributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (Comddap) annually convenes information technology distributors and resellers in one big event to celebrate the evolution of the country's IT industry.

This year, the Comddap Expo 2007, dubbed "I.T.'S Your Life!", brings together the world's leading makers of IT products, solutions and peripherals under one roof. The exhibit will cater not only to IT professionals, business owners, managers and CEOs, but to artists, students, homemakers, gamers, and kids as well.

The best and latest products in the market will be available on sale with great discounts and promotions. Consider the mobile phone you use to take photographs and send multimedia messages, the MP3 player you plug into your ears once in a while to listen to the latest tunes, the PC that you work with everyday to write documents, create presentations, play PC games, or send emails with photo, audio, video files as attachments.

Featuring the latest essential tools for the modern lifestyle, the show's exhibitors and participants include Canon Marketing Philippines Inc, Lamco International, Ben Q Corp, Astech Pengson Distributors Inc, Brother International Corp, Wordtext Systems Inc and more.

With over 10,000 expected attendees, Comddap Expo 2007 is open to the public from Nov. 8 to 11 at Hall 1 of the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SEMINOLE'S HARD ROCK EXPANSION PLAN IN ASIA

Seminole Gaming chief executive officer James Allen (right) unveils a resolution on the $965-million acquisition of the Hard Rock International café, restaurant, hotel, casino and retail chain by the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida, which plans to expand the business in the Philippines and other parts of Asia. Allen and Hard Rock International president and CEO Hamish Dodds (left) visited the Philippines in their tour of the Asian region to explore and evaluate the opportunities for such purpose. Before its acquisition of Hard Rock International, the tribe used to own and operate only two Seminole Hard Rock hotels and casinos in Tampa and Hollywood, Florida under a license agreement. Nonetheless, the Seminoles also own five more non-Hard Rock casinos in Florida. Casinos generate some $28 billion in gaming revenues in the United States, according to Allen. And with the $965-million acquisition of Hard Rock International from The Rank Group Plc, the Seminoles' business now spans 46 countries where 124 signature Hard Rock cafes are located. The purchase includes the Hard Rock brand controlled by The Rank Group Plc and the entire collection of music memorabilia and 68 company-owned Hard Rock Café restaurants and retail stores. The deal also includes licensing or franchise agreements for another 56 restaurants and five hotels, plus Hard Rock Live performance venues. Shown with Allen and Dodds at the unveiling ceremony is general manager Proceso Calison of the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta, Makati City.

Members share confidence in Asiapro Cooperative

A STABLE INCOME IS EVERY WORKER'S dream. This is especially true for the more than 20 million contingent workers in the country today who are disadvantaged by the fact that their chance for progress is hindered by the unpredictable nature of non-regular employment. These "seasonal" workers need an institution that can alleviate their working conditions to favorable status. Asiapro Cooperative is the prime example of such institution.

Asiapro is a pioneering multi-purpose cooperative that takes care of engaging its owner-members in service agreements in cooperating companies. Under the model, self-employed/non-regular workers organize themselves and form a cooperative society that deals with business groups that are increasingly outsourcing services that are not part of their core competence.

Asiapro provides a steady source of skilled and efficient workers and professionals providing services to various companies, thus ensuring the long-term productivity for these contracting parties. On the other hand, Asiapro looks after its owner-members and ensures that they get better packages as members and co-owners of their own enterprise.

With the Asiapro model, workers enjoy higher service rates, insurance, health care, savings, and other standard employment benefits. Membership also ensures access to savings and credit facilities and other livelihood opportunities for the members. This Asiapro owner-member assigned to one of the agribusiness exporters is keen on noting the advantages.

"Membership with Asiapro gives me a feeling of security unlike any other. Because of the benefits and services, we don't have to worry about cost implications of emergencies and other expenses," says one member.

Being a multi-purpose cooperative, Asiapro also engages in service contracting, management services, productivity and skilled services in activities such as, but not limited to, production, manufacturing, agriculture, office administration, sales and promotion, logistics, housekeeping and maintenance. As co-owners of the enterprise, members also have the opportunity to share whatever success the cooperative will reap in the future.

Another Asiapro owner-member assigned to a retail company considers it as a major plus to be able to share in dividends, patronage refund and Asiapro's service surplus, among others.

She says, "We are able to save money from outside of our regular income. These bonuses are also critical for emergency expenditures."

Companies should invest in training to remain competitive. The cost of recruiting and training new workers after every contractual period is a major consideration. As a direct consequence of replacing trained workers, productivity, quality and efficiency might in some way be compromised. Because Asiapro provides continuing training for its members, clients prefer to engage the same flexible, productive workers.

A member also assigned to a retail company benefited greatly from training. "The various training and values programs gave us knowledge out of the conventional. These combined with our skills give us the edge over others. Our training is continuous," she shared.

Today, Asiapro is made up of 25,000 self-employed owner-members.

For more details on Asiapro, log on to www.asiapro.coop.

Welcome
KSEARCH
8

KSEARCH MARKS 8TH YEAR

KSearch Asia Consulting Inc, one of the Philippines' leading regional executive search and management consulting firms, recently celebrated its anniversary, marking eight productive years of providing client-companies exceptional corporate leaders and talents. KSearch commemorated its eighth anniversary in an event spearheaded by KSearch board chair Mario Mananghaya and president and managing director Manuel Guillermo. The event, held at the Tower Club of Philamlife Tower in Makati City, was attended by KSearch executives, clients, alliances in the executive search industry, and special guests. The company traces its roots in the late 1990s when Mananghaya contemplated on forming an organization that would competently support companies' strategic requirements by supplying them with highly qualified corporate leaders. In the past eight years, KSearch has made important achievements, acquiring new clients such as a major shared services center operation, a Malaysian manufacturing company, and the largest Internet provider and telecommunications firm in Hong Kong. The firm also made significant strides in business practices including the adoption of a functional practice area approach, a system that enables the company to address clients' requirements promptly. KSearch Asia Consulting Inc is located at the 22nd floor of 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. For more information, interested parties can call 817-0322, e-mail jobs@searchasia.com, or log on to www.ksearch.com. Shown are (from left) Guillermo, Mananghaya, practice director, finance practice area Karmell Kintanar, and practice director for ICT practice area Joy Austria-Aguila

New Globe-GK Farming Institute breaks ground

AS PART OF GLOBE'S COMMITMENT to help Gawad Kalinga in providing productivity programs and sustainability to its communities, Globe has recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Gawad Kalinga (GK) to launch the Globe-GK Farming Institute at the GK-ERH Village in Barangay Sumag, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Oct. 19.

The MOA signing was capped by a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony of the livelihood center in the 3.1-hectare farm establishment. The activity was led by Globe consumer business group head Ferdz dela Cruz, Globe sales distribution head Bernard Llamzon, and Gawad Kalinga Development Foundation executive director Luis Oquinena and Tony Meloto.

The Globe-GK Farming Institute and Productivity Center is envisioned to be one of the premier community-based agricultural training centers in the Visayas region. It aims to promote agriculture as a viable source of livelihood for rural communities within the area as showcased by GK communities.

Aside from setting up demo farms surrounding the institute, Globe's corporate social responsibility program, Globe Bridging Communities (Globe BridgeCom), will introduce various productivity and capacity building programs designed to empower GK beneficiaries training in the institute.

Globe BridgeCom will also bring in experts on agriculture, economics, and various fields of technology for community development to further enrich the learning experiences of the trainees. Ultimately, this will make the Globe-GK Farming Institute the preferred destination for farmers interested in adopting environment-friendly practices of land cultivation in their communities such as organic farming and vermi composting which is the thrust of the Negros province.

The program hopes to develop farmer-entrepreneurs that will have more opportunities to lead a better life. This will effectively complement other productivity initiatives of both Globe and Gawad Kalinga not only for Negros but the rest of Visayas as well.

Globe-GK Farming Institute
Globe

PRESENT during the groundbreaking were, from left, Globe consumer business head Ferdz dela Cruz, Gawad Kalinga's Tony Meloto, Gawad Kalinga Development Foundation executive director Luis Oquinena and Globe head for sales and distribution Bernie Llamzon.

PRO V INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES CSR PROGRAM

With the purpose of enhancing education in less fortunate communities and in line with the Department of Education's law on mandatory viewing of educational television programs in all public schools, Pro V International embarked on its first corporate social responsibility project and donated a television set to Cupang Day Care Center in Muntinlupa City Aug. 24. DepEd's District Office headed by Maricar Sigrid Blanca with the help of the teachers of Cupang Day Care Center put together a program complete with prayer, fun and games, while the students displayed their talents through song and dance numbers. This was followed by the presentation of Pro V International's gift to the school with country manager John Killion giving a heartwarming speech about the importance of education and Pro V International's optimism in contributing to Muntinlupa City's vision of improving the quality of children's education. Rep. Ruffy Biazon acknowledged Pro V International's contribution to the city's education program. The Pro V International team then distributed packed meals and gifts to the children. On hand were Biazon's wife Trina Reyes-Biazon, Councilor Ann Soriano, and Solar Sports TV host Reema Chanco. Also present during the activity were Pro V International's vice president for sales Brian Zaas, finance controller-Philippines Saravanan Chandran and human resources manager Cecilia Curameng. The project was made possible with the support of Liberty Power Corp.

Globe supports 2nd Int'l Congress in Manila

GLOBE TELECOM INC, ONE OF the leading telecommunications companies in the country, supports the holistic development of our country's youth as part of its vision of enriching the lives of its customers. Globe has, in fact, developed various campaigns that highlight positive values and the empowerment of the youth.

As part of its advocacy for the youth, Globe has joined hands with InterMedia Consulting, EduChild Foundation Inc, Developmental Advocacy for Women Volunteerism (DAWV), I Am STRONG and the Department of Education in presenting "Love, Laughter and Life Ever After, the Second International Congress on the Education in Love, Sex, and Life" to be held from Nov. 19 to 22 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The 2nd International Congress aims to initiate change in the midst of a flawed general perception of sex and love currently plaguing societies everywhere. By bringing together local and international delegates consisting of government officials, school administrators, parents, socio-civic leaders, and most importantly, the youth, to take part in various exciting activities, having a relevant life-changing transformation is definitely within reach.

Schools, youth organizations and other youth-oriented groups are encouraged to join the diverse pool of participants from all around the globe who are ready to do their part in changing the world with love that is real. Registration is ongoing at www.edicongress.com. Globe subscribers shall enjoy 50 percent off on the Congress fee until Nov. 4 only.

For more information and inquiries about the 2nd International Congress, call 635-6114 or log on to www.edicongress.com.

PINOY MEDIA CONGRESS YEAR 3

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp and Studio 23, in partnership with the Philippine Association of Communication Educators (PACE) will hold the Pinoy Media Congress (PMC)-Year 3. This year PMC will have two phases. The first covered the Luzon and National Capital Region universities and colleges and was staged on Oct. 16 and 17 at the Far Eastern University (FEU), Manila, while the second will cover the Visayas and Mindanao schools, and will be done on Nov. 8 and 9 at the Claire Isabel McGill Luce Auditorium, Silliman University, Dumaguete City. PACE is an organization of communication arts teachers and institutions which offer degrees in communication, broadcasting, journalism, advertising and communication research. Shown are Ramon Osorio (head-corporate communications division of ABS-CBN) and professor Maria Mercedes Robles (PACE president) signing the memorandum of understanding. The signing was witnessed by: (standing from left) professor Grace Agoncillo (Miriam College), Cristina Stohner-Tan (ABS-CBN corporate affairs officer), Edgardo Wenceslao (ABS-CBN corporate affairs officer) and professor Lynda Garcia (Miriam College).

PRSP holds seminar on multi-faceted PR practice

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY of the Philippines (PRSP), in cooperation with Filipinas Heritage Library, caps its 2007 professional development series with a seminar on "The Multi-Faceted Landscape of PR Practice."

It will be held on Friday, Nov. 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City.

The PRSP professional development seminar, the fourth this year, looks into the application of PR in various businesses for a better appreciation of the flexibility PR professionals are often expected to exhibit as they perform their tasks.

Among the topics are: Creative brand exposure: Using next generation PR tools for publicity mileage, Applying PR principles in diplomatic relations, The imperatives of event management, The ups and downs of PR counseling, and organizing a PR Office.

The seminar promises to be a productive learning session for PR professionals occupying mid-level positions at different industries, professors teaching PR and communication-related courses, and communication students planning to pursue careers in PR.

Interested parties may call Ruth or Maan of the PRSP secretariat at 638-0010, or e-mail prsociety.prsp@yahoo.com, or log on to www.prsp.ph.

All set for the 2007 Honda Media Challenge

YEAR 2007 HONDA MEDIA Challenge promises another season of thrill and excitement under a new competition format. Moving on from circuit racing, this year's series showcase skills in car handling and precision driving in an Autokhana competition format. Autokhana combines autocross and gymkhana concepts wherein drivers are each tasked to navigate a complex course marked by traffic cones. Obstacles consist of slaloms, figure 8s and timed parking boxes. The competition's ultimate goal is to get through the course at the fastest time with the least amount of mistakes.

A total of 11 teams from different media outfits signed up for the challenge, each team composed of three rookie drivers. Rookie drivers are required to attend a one-day race clinic to be versed with proper seat position, steering techniques, footwork, car control, cornering and balance. Veteran racers are to compete as individuals and show off their polished driving skills. Competing participants include members from Businessworld, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, Manila Standard Today, Top Gear, C! Magazine, Gadgets, AutoReview, Motoring Today, Stoplight TV, DZRH, DZMM, DWIZ, DZXL, Wave 89.1, NU 107 and autoindustriya.com. Joining the excitement are Honda executives racing under two Honda teams and members of Honda Club of the Philippines.

"Now on its 9th season, Honda Media Challenge is up for another invigorating competition. Each round presents different course design to spice up the challenge. Each participant must apply strong mental concentration in memorizing the track to know which direction to go and do next." said Arnel Doria, Honda Cars Philippines Inc's VP for marketing.

Aside from spending a day of fun and relaxation with friends from the media, Honda Media Challenge aims to exhibit durability, ease of handling and high quality performance of Honda vehicles. Featured in this year's series is the 1.5 Honda Jazz. Equipped with the 1.5 VTEC engine, the Honda Jazz delivers powerful performance at all engine speeds by varying the timing and lifting of valves. Nimble and spirited qualities of the Jazz VTEC make it the perfect vehicle for the competition.

Official competition rounds for the 9th season of Honda Media Challenge are slated on Nov. 10, Nov. 24 and Dec. 8 at the FTI Complex grounds in Taguig.

i-PODs at stake in City photo tilt

HCPI INVITES AMATEUR photographers across the country owning year 2003 to present Honda City to join Honda's Photo-Essay Contest. With the theme "Capturing Captivation," the competition aims to seize precious and beyond compare moments with the Honda City. Be it the couple's first anniversary, family's first out-of-town trip, graduation party or birthday celebration, the contest celebrates life's captivating moments spent with the Honda City.

To join, submit two photographs, essay composition with 150 to 400 words and photocopy of OR/CR as proof of ownership of Honda City. Entries may be submitted in three easy ways: online, e-mail, or snail mail. A special page on HCPI's official website www.hondaphil.com is particularly allocated for online submission. Participants may also send entries by e-mailing pr@hondaphil.com or sending postal mail to Honda Cars Philippines Inc at 8/F Pacific Center Building, 33 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For an entry to be valid, it must be submitted together with a duly accomplished entry form which can easily be downloaded from www.hondaphil.com. An entry form requires contact information of participant, title of entry and captions of photographs submitted. Deadline of submission of entries is on Nov. 30

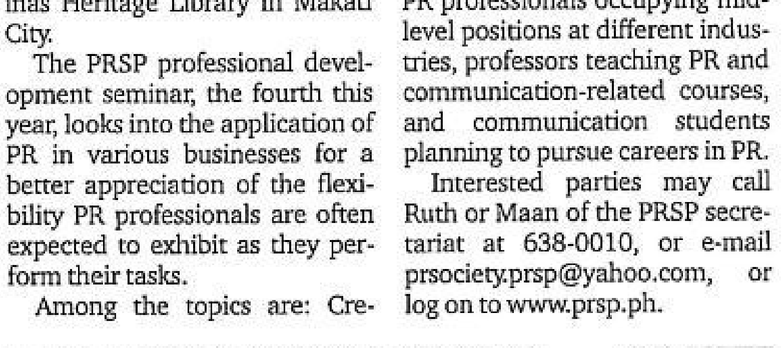
Participants may use either digital or analog format cameras in taking photographs. Images may either be in color or in black and white. For digital entries, photographs must have at least 200 dpi with a maximum file size of 2MB each. Photographs taken using analog cameras must be submitted through snail mail, printed in 8R size and with negatives pasted at the back of the prints. All official entries must not be manipulated or altered.

"The Honda City has been part of the lives of the Filipinos throughout the years. The increasing number of photography enthusiasts in the country makes this photo-essay tilt the best opportunity to share your celebrated moments with the Honda City. Show off your creativity and tell us your story," Arnel Doria, HCPI vice president for marketing, said.

Exciting prizes await winning entries: an i-POD Video for 1st place, i-POD Nano for 2nd place, and iPOD Shuffle for 3rd place. Plus, loads of exciting Honda premium items are in store for 10 non-winning entries and for the lucky online voter of the Most Popular Entry.

Winning photos will be judged based on: relevance to the theme (30 percent), creativity (20 percent), selection and quality of photos (15 percent), essay content, literary style, composition (15 percent), uniqueness (5 percent), popularity (5 percent), and overall Honda City visual input (10 percent).

For more details, log on to www.hondaphil.com or visit any Honda dealer nearest you.



INQUIRER JOINS NOEL BAZAARS 2007

For the seventh straight year, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is the official print media partner of the Noel Bazaar Series, the longest and the biggest Yuletide bazaar scheduled from Nov. 21 to 25 and Dec. 21 to 23 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The event is a one-of-a-kind shopping event with hundreds of products, fashion lines, food products, Christmas home décors and novelty items at rock-bottom prices, as well as family-oriented entertainment activities. Shown after the signing of the memorandum of agreement are (from left) Noel Bazaars project director Mayose Bautista, Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation executive director Dr. Quintin Doromal, INQUIRER president Alexandria Prieto-Romualdez and INQUIRER AVP-marketing director Jocel Adorable. Part of the event's proceeds will go to the GMA Kapuso Foundation's Give-A-Gift Alay sa Batang Pinoy, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation and the Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundation. For more information on the Noel Bazaars, call 687-0654 or 687-0604 or e-mail noelbazaars@gmail.com.

VMUF gears for 50th Golden Anniversary

SOME 20,000 ALUMNI AND BALIKBAYANS WHO GRADUATED FROM the Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation (VMUF) in San Carlos, Pangasinan, will converge on Feb. 8, 2008 when the university celebrates its 50th Golden Anniversary and Grand Alumni Homecoming. It is one of the fastest growing universities in the Far East region today strategically located in the heart of San Carlos City in Pangasinan and about 200 kilometers north of Manila. Dr. Angelo B. Juan, VMUF alumni relations director and overall chair of the activity, expressed optimism that hundreds of graduates who are now employed abroad will come home to attend the university reunion.VMUF graduates are invited to visit the website at www.vmuf.edu.ph or e-mail vmuf50years@yahoo.com.

The Shroud of Turin
ENTRANCE

THE SHROUD AT MALL OF ASIA

SM matriarch Felicidad Sy (front, center) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Philippine Exhibition of the Mystery of the Shroud of Turin at SM Mall of Asia. Also shown are Lirio Sandoval, president, A-Z Direct Marketing, Bro. Terry Abella of The Holy One of the Lord Catholic Foundation; Lilia Yang, treasurer, Shroud Exhibits International Inc (SEII); Victoria Fuentes of the Pasay City government; Irene Lloren, president, SEII; Mo. Immaculate Piedad, Holy Face Congregation. At the back, Steve Dods, consultant, SEII; Barrie Schwortz, official documenting photographer of the Shroud of Turin research project; and Tim Bautista, director, SEII. The 45-minute light and sound show features a life-size replica of the Shroud of Turin and over 80 exhibit items from Schwortz' collection. It is ongoing until Dec. 9 at SM Mall of Asia. For more details, log on to www.shroudexhibits.ph.

Sally

December 30, 1924 - October 30, 2007

RIZALINA OCAMPO - JAVIER

peacefully joined her Creator last Tuesday at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children, **GEORGE & GLADIOLA, JACINTO & CELIA, EDWARD, PHILIP & MEL, FRANCIS & EDNA, ELIZABETH & JEFF, EVELYN & TITO, EMILIE & ERICK**; grandchildren, **LORD GEORGE & JOAN, ICA, ANN, MICHAEL, YSSA, KATE, PACO, MURIEL & CHIARA MARIE** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state in the Javier residence at 102 Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, 3rd of November 2007 at Silangan Memorial Park, Bacoor, Cavite.

CLASSIFIEDS

We are the world's largest air express transportation company, generally renowned for our progressive people culture, customer service technology and initiatives. We are looking for a:

Manager, Controller

- Bachelor's degree in Business or related field, with MBA
- CPA or Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) member
- Six to Eight (6-8) years experience in finance and accounting in a multinational organization, including management experience preferably in air freight business industry
- Familiar with US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Philippines Accounting Standard
- Familiar with Peoplesoft Accounting System
- Thorough knowledge of treasury and cash management and taxation, including understanding of freight, duty/tax invoicing process, collection and cash applications procedures
- Excellent skills in negotiation, process control and project management

In view of the FedEx hub relocation, candidate is expected to coordinate with relevant departments and handle all accounting related matters in relation to the hub relocation. This position will be based in Subic Bay, and will be available only until January 2009.

This is an autonomous role offering great employee benefits. Remuneration will be commensurate to experience and qualifications.

Join the team that lives to deliver

If you are ready for this challenge, please forward your written application, stating position applied for, to:

HR Services Office
Bldg. 8045, Argonaut Hi-way
Subic Bay International Airport
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

FedEx. Express
We live to deliver.
www.fedex.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II. Brgy Paran, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
November 2, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	HONDA PARTS MANUFACTURING CORP. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Shinji Sasaki/ Japanese	Assistant VP - Gear Plant & Maintenance Manager
2.	NESTLE PHILIPPINES, INC. Bo. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Wan Ahmad Wizan Bin Wan Nawang/ Malaysian	Assistant Vice President NBS AOA Accounting Operations Manager
3.	K.S. STANDARD CORPORATION CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Dae Yoon Yeun (w/o Lim)/ Korean	President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–November 2, 2007)

JOB Market sa LIBRE

You can now checkout more jobs from JobMarket Libre everyday!

Into your Hands
I commit my spirit;
Redeem me, O Lord,
The God of truth
– Psalm 31:5

Milagros "Milagring" Manucduc Tan

of Aurora, Isabela

peacefully joined her Creator on October 29, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her loving children **Leoncio "Boy," Melencio "Sandy," William** (†), **Aurora "Au," Milo** and **Benzon**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1, Funeraria Paz, Araneta, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig at 1:00 p.m. Mass will be held at the Hope area.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. : 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
EDMUNDO M. VARONA	Sanc. de San Jose, Greenhills	November 3, 2007	will be announced later
SHIRLEY PANIT	Imperial Standard	November 3, 2007 2:00 p.m.	Loyola Mem. Park - Marikina

CLASSIFIEDS

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS SWATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
3829198

JOB Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office:
897-8425 (Telefax)
899-4427; 897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;

Cubao:
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
523-5570 loc. 115 or 116

Megamall:
635-0219; 635-0220

In Loving Memory
of

Veronica "Bing" E. Rodrigo

on the 3rd Anniversary of her passage to the Lord

†

April 3, 1947 - November 4, 2004

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Holy Mass and pray for Bing on November 4, 2007. Masses will be offered on that day at the following churches:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel *Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City*	9:45 AM
Church of Christ The King *España, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	6:15 AM
Christ The King Parish *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Mary The Queen Parish *San Juan*	6:00 AM
Most Holy Redeemer Parish *Brixton Hill Ext., Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Our Lady of EDSA Shrine *EDSA, Pasig*	8:00 AM
Our Lady of Guadalupe *Guadalupe, Makati*	6:00 AM
Sto. Domingo Church *Quezon Ave., Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Sacred Heart Parish *28 Sct. Ybardolaza, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish *Pasay Road, Makati*	6:00 AM
St. John The Baptist Parish *Pinaglabanan, San Juan*	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio *Forbes, Makati*	6:15 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish *ATC, Ayala Alabang*	6:30 AM
Parish of St. James The Great *Ayala Alabang*	6:30 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish *Alabang*	8:00 AM
Manila Cathedral *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 AM

Bing's children, Tonito and Allee, Rocky and Mia, and Carmela, grandchildren Pau, Nico, Joaquin and Renzo, her mother, Medy, sisters, Ditas and Pempe, brothers, King, Milo and Boogie, her nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews wish to express their appreciation for the masses offered and the prayers said for Bing, and the support and friendship extended to the family, these past three years by all those who cared for and loved her. Thank you very much.

Muling Pagkabuhay

Kung, mula sa wala, tayo ay nabuhay,
Di ba lalong pwedeng, pag tayo'y namatay,
Sa atas ng Diyos, ay muling mabuhay?

(Francisco Soc Rodrigo,
Pebrero 11, 1990)

"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on the rock and gave me a firm place to stand." **Psalm 40:1-2**

IT spending in healthcare industry seen to increase

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR IS SEEN TO account for an increasing percentage of the overall information technology spending in the country in the next three years.

For 2007, IT spending in the country is seen to reach $1.3 billion.

According to the latest study of Singapore-based Springboard Research, emerging markets in Asia—including the Philippines—would account for an increasing percentage of IT spending in the healthcare industry across the region.

Based on Springboard estimates, these emerging markets represent 59 percent of the US$3.4-billion healthcare IT spending in Asia outside Japan in 2007.

The research firm said this was expected to increase to 64 of total spending by 2010.

"While it is no surprise to IT vendors that the emerging markets in Asia are growing quickly, the percentage of the total healthcare IT spending could provide a surprise to many vendors," said Jonathan Silber, research manager for Springboard Research.

Silber said that with the way the market was fragmented, vendors could not have a regional strategy and would need to be focused on specific countries and solutions.

Also, he said healthcare IT spending in the emerging markets of Asia was still very much a hardware-based play as these economies build their basic IT infrastructure.

A separate study made by New York-based Access Markets International Partners found that small and medium business in the six top Southeast Asian markets—including the Philippines—would spend at least $13 billion on IT in 2008.

SMBs in the Philippines—defined as firms with up to 999 workers—are expected to spend $1.3 billion on boosting their IT infrastructure this year, up 19 percent over 2006.

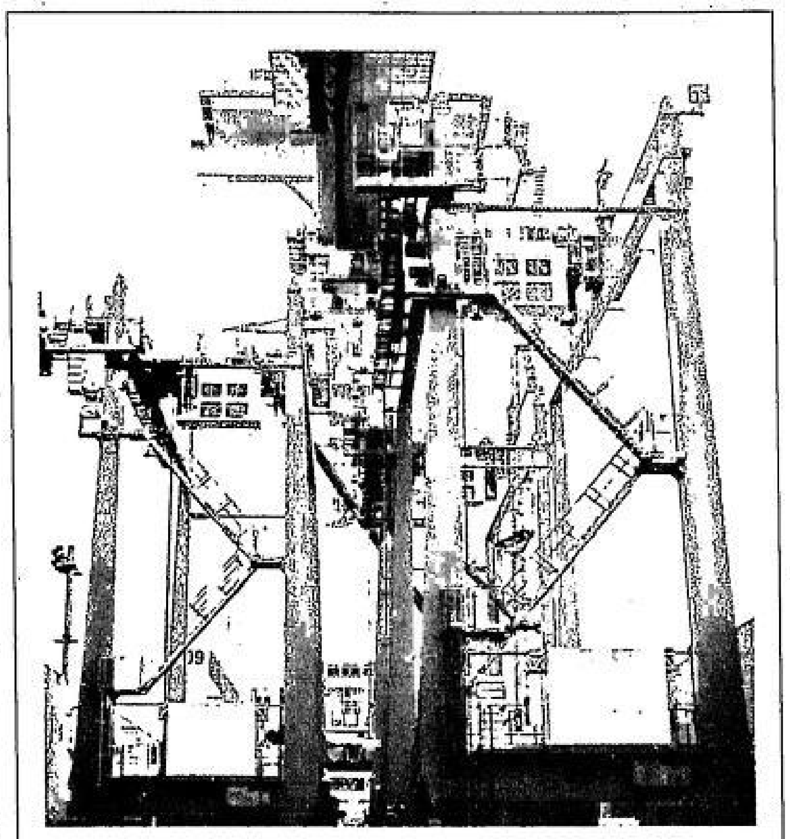
AMI-Partners said much of this spending will be driven by computing—which includes PCs, printers, peripherals and servers—as well as Internet-related investments.

Ruth Garin, AMI-Partners research analyst, said most SMBs in the Philippines were boosting investments on computer hardware and Internet-related technologies as they build the basic blocks of IT infrastructure.

She said the two key reasons for the increase in IT spending was awareness and realization that IT would help boost business, and that IT would improve delivery of products and services.

"In addition, strong competition among IT market players offers wider technology opportunities for SMBs," Garin said. "At the moment, the Philippines is one of the top five countries in the Asia-Pacific region outside of Japan with the fastest IT growth rates."

The study further showed that the bulk of the IT spending was coming from SMBs around the National Capital Region, accounting for more than half the total IT spend this year.



NEW CRANES ROLLOUT AT SOUTH HARBOR
Port operator Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) recently took delivery of three Mitsui Rubber Tired Gantry (RTG) cranes worth P180 million, to further raise efficiency at the Manila South Harbor and to prepare it for the rising demand of the growing economy.

New investment agency proposed

By Michelle V. Remo

A BILL THAT SEEKS TO CREATE THE Industrial Development Board (IDB), an agency that will be mandated to improve the country's investment climate, was filed recently with the Lower House.

House Bill No. 2530, authored by Quirino Rep. Junie Evangelista Cua, provided that the IDB would assume the regulatory functions of the Board of Investments which, in turn, would focus on promoting the Philippines as an investment site.

The author believes that having a government body focused on regulation and another on promotion will help improve the country's investment climate.

Regulatory body

The proposed body, which will be an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, would be composed of seven governors, namely: The trade secretary, trade undersecretaries for industry and investments group and international trade, three private-sector representatives and the IDB director general.

The IDB will also be responsible for the formulation of the so-called "national framework for industrial development (NFID)." It will promulgate rules, regulations and policies on the granting of fiscal incentives to IDB-registered enterprises, and determine the government's investments priorities plan (IPP), the list of government-preferred business activities and projects that are entitled to fiscal incentives.

The bill states that an IPP's validity will be consistent with the duration of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) and Medium Term Philippine Investments Plan (MTPIP), both prepared by the National Economic and Development Authority. This amends the current practice of changing the IPP every year.

SME assistance

The other functions of the IDB, as stated under the bill, are as follow: Assist micro and small enterprises in the preparation of feasibility and other pre-investment project study; process and approve, deny, suspend, or revoke applications for registration; establish a mediation center for disputes between registered enterprises; and restrict importation or exportation of any equipment, raw materials, intermediate or finished goods as it deems necessary to manage resources and supply in the country.

Some incentives provided in the bill are similar to those enjoyed by BOI-registered firms. It is, however, giving better incentive package for export-oriented firms which includes an eight-year income tax holiday and exemption from value-added tax on goods purchased locally.

Generous perks

The bill also provides that a registered activity or project may qualify for a preferential income tax rate of 15 percent after its income tax holiday privilege has lapsed.

The bill also seeks to exempt microenterprises from local taxes.

"All things constant, incentives become material and determinative of investment decisions," Cua said in the bill's explanatory note.

Cua raised the country's need to boost investments, citing the 2006 World Investment Report which indicated that the Philippines attracted only $2.34 billion in foreign direct investments last year. The amount paled in comparison with investments that entered Singapore ($24.055 million), Thailand ($10.756 million), Malaysia ($6.06 billion) and Indonesia ($5.556 million).

A GATHERING of DREAMLINGS & NIGHTMARES
WITH NEIL Gaiman

WHERE NEIL GAIMAN READS FROM ONE OF HIS LATEST WORKS & ANSWERS YOUR QUERIES.

ONLY 1,000 TICKETS AVAILABLE
INCLUDES AN AUTOGRAPHED BEOWULF MANUSCRIPT.

THE FIRST 100 ATTENDEES TO REGISTER AT THE VENUE
GET TO BE PART OF AN EXCLUSIVE BOOK SIGNING HOUR WITH NEIL GAIMAN.

EL CENTRO SUBIC • NOVEMBER 24, 2007 SATURDAY, 9 AM
TICKETS AT P1,500 (CASH BASIS ONLY)

LUCREMAE H VILLALUNA AT 09156436040 OR (02)7518152

SUBIC BAY

Market bullish on Avant

Own a unit at Avant at The Fort with prices starting at ₱11,650.00/month*

*The low DP scheme for a 36sq.m. studio unit

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B2-1

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Brittany BEAUTIFUL
A Vista Land Company

AVANT AT THE FORT

Demand for Prime Green on the rise

Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a unit at Avant at The Fort, perhaps the last remaining prime green living space in Bonifacio Global City's Crescent Park West.

Call 838 0558 • 837 3851

This ad is for announcement purposes only

Skills, little cash loan enough to grow a business

A recipient of microfinancing relates how a P5,000 loan has helped her succeed

MILAGROS Reyes with Quezon City councilor Bernadette Dy

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HOUSEWIFE MILAGROS REYES counts herself as one of the estimated 40 million Filipinos classified as "poor."

But Reyes, who did not even get to finish high school, decided to do something about her plight, which was why she grabbed the opportunity in 2004 to borrow P5,000 from the microfinancing program of the Bagong Henerasyon Foundation.

Reyes, who had to help her husband put food on the table for their family of six, used the money to expand her small business selling packed lunches near a school in Masambong, Quezon City.

When she paid off the loan after six months, she borrowed another P5,000 to further grow her business and venture into selling other food products like *puto bumbong*, a delicacy popular during the Christmas Dawn Masses.

When she paid off that loan, she got another to buy a pig, which she sent home to the province for her siblings to take care of and eventually earn from.

Recently, she got her fourth loan worth P7,000 and she diversified into selling Christmas decorations to students.

No longer difficult

She is happy to say that after more than three years of running her own businesses, it is no longer so difficult for her and her family to eat three square meals a day and have enough left over to put in the bank.

Her husband and her children help in the business and they all get paid a salary.

"I'm happy because I am now able to give gifts worth P500 to my children during Christmas, unlike before when I can only manage to give them P100 each," Reyes told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

"I also now have P10,000 in the bank and my dream is to rest for a while and enjoy my success," she added in Filipino.

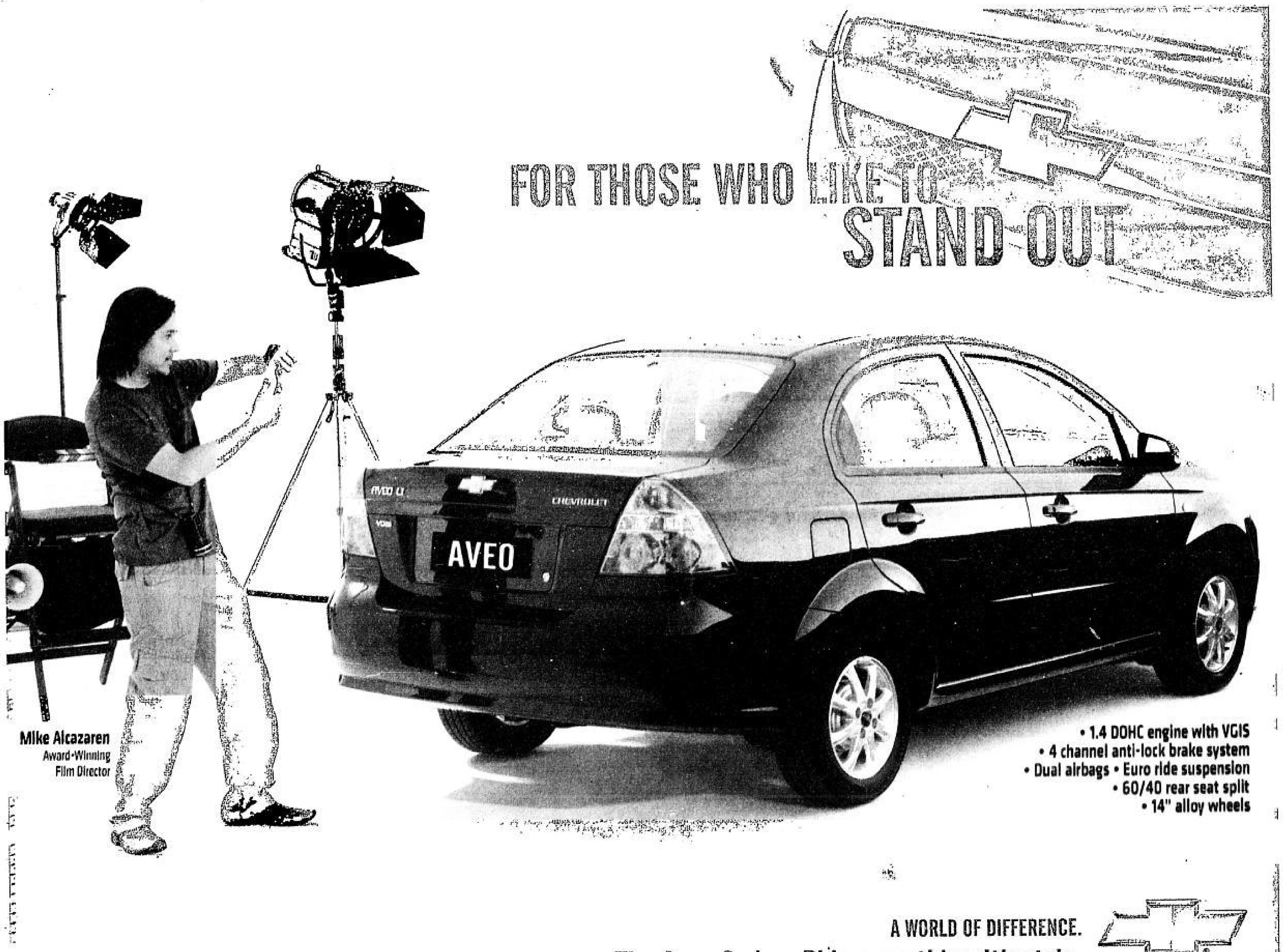
Same experience

Quezon City Councilor Bernadette Herrera-Dy said she wants more of her poor constituents to experience the same success through microfinance.

She said the project was close to her heart because her father also got his first break in business through microfinance.

"My father was once a newspaper boy who got his capital from a small loan ex-

SKILLS/ B2-4



• 1.4 DOHC engine with VGIS
• 4 channel anti-lock brake system
• Dual airbags • Euro ride suspension
• 60/40 rear seat split
• 14" alloy wheels

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

The Aveo Sedan. Ride smoothly with style.

CHEVROLET

Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet dealer: MAKATI 894-1976, 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 TO 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-6349, 533-8375, 533-1263 PASIG 672-1612 to 14, 672-1486 • ALABANG 771-1206 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9992 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 • CEBU (032) 234-0426 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 963-3333, (045) 860-2000 • DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577 • ILOILO (033) 3374540 • BACOLOD (034) 708-2489 • LAGUNA (632) 6992458, (046) 4301606 www.chevrolet.com.ph

YEARS

CHEVROLET 24hr. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE (WITHIN WARRANTY PERIOD) 751-CHEV (2438)

1800-1888-4646

Avail of Chevrolet gift coupons/certificates worth P20,000 when you buy the Aveo Sedan MT. Now thru Nov. 30, 2007.

Gift certificate can be used to pay for LTO registration, car insurance, chattel mortgage or as discount on car price. Gift certificates are valid until fully consumed.

Promo period is from November 1 to November 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3871, Series of 2007.

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Scholastic International president visits schools

HUGH ROOME, PRESIDENT OF global children's book publisher Scholastic International, visited Scholastic Uno High School, Philippine Cultural High School, and Chinese International School Aug. 7. The three schools have recently forged partnerships with Scholastic Philippines to implement the Preschool Literacy Program (PLP) and the Assessment and Enrichment Program (AEP) among their students. Roome met the schools' owners and students, visited the preschool departments, and inaugurated the Reading Center at Uno High School.

"It's exciting to work around the world in the endeavor of helping children learn to read, and helping parents and teachers teach those children," says Roome. "This is an assurance that all around the world, there are thoughtful people who have dedicated their lives to education."

"In the schools, I think the most exciting thing is simply the children," he added. "I saw today classrooms that were so well-managed, and I can see that the children are interested in learning, are very responsible, and the teachers have the skills to enable those children to have rich futures."

Roome believes that Scholastic International can play a big role in improving the reading skills of children in developing countries such as the Philippines. He notes that for 90 years since its inception, Scholastic has been dedicated to helping children read. "We're able as a global company to take the best ideas, the best practices in teaching and learning from everywhere on the planet, and bring them to bear against the opportunity of having a better method for learning. And I think that we are going to learn as much from the Philippines, as we are able to bring ideas to the Philippines about learning from other parts of the world." Roome observes that while Filipino teachers work primarily with traditional methods, they are nonetheless very receptive to new ideas. "What I see in the schools are knowledgeable, dedicated people who are working in an environment where they are using traditional tools, but they're very open-minded about the new tools that we can bring from other parts of the world. I believe that in a place like the Philippines, there will be new answers to ways of teaching children, which will combine the old methods with the new technologies."

However, Roome is careful to note that computer-assisted learning is not a universal remedy for all the challenges of education. "I don't think that digital learning is a panacea that answers all of the problems in the classroom. We all believe that it is strong teacher training and motivation, matched with technology, and very importantly, matched with parental involvement and the whole education process, that will give us the best method."

Scholastic Philippines has recently pioneered school reading programs such as the PLP and the AEP in partnership with Uno High School, Philippine Cultural High School, and the Chinese International School. Both programs are anchored on the principle of encouraging children to read by matching them to books that are appropriate and enjoyable for them, while also developing their critical reading skills. "What we see in these classrooms is a great combination of helping the children develop the critical skills for literacy, but at the same time, preserving their energy and creativity related to an ability to read."

According to Roome, the Philippines is one of Scholastic's most important future markets. "This country could be one of the world's most important centers for knowledge workers, as opposed to laborers. The path for that to happen for the Philippines is really through education," Roome says. "And we see signs in so many places, in private schools and government schools, of a real energy to accomplish that goal."

"Our hope is that we can help in important ways the Filipino people realize the destiny of professional life and economic security, and the joys of health and welfare by focusing on developing literacy and school advancement. With this in mind, we are trying to help provide the materials to teachers and to libraries and school classrooms that will support that mission."

SSM: Educating about the 'global village'

IN AN INCREASINGLY GLOBALized world, schools have to change how their learners are educated. Young learners will have to be equipped with critical values to better understand the world-to better understand the realities, people and culture they will interact with. Their choices in life tomorrow will be far different than those their parents made yesterday. Their success will therefore depend on the wisdom behind the choices they make.

Singapore School Manila (SSM) has a reputation for understanding the global village we live in. The SSM curriculum is "alive", which means it is continuously enriched and based on the latest research and best practices to ensure that the necessary skills are imbibed in the programs that are run in the school.

SSM educators are experienced and passionate. They aim to bring out the best in their learners by giving enjoyable and fun activities appropriate for their intelligence.

Their goal is to prepare children to exist in a world where values lie in information dissemination and communication. They create a conducive environment to encourage pupils to think out of the box, be more entrepreneurial, innovative and for them to make a success of their careers considering the different talents and aspirations of their pupils.

Following the curriculum and educational trends of schools in Singapore, SSM students are made to prepare for the internationally recognized educational qualification, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). This qualification is accredited by the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate and is a prerequisite for entry to tertiary institutions in America, Europe and Australia.

SSM believes that for a school to be successful, emphasis has to be placed on personal character and then academic excellence. The two main long-term goals in SSM are, therefore, character formation and bringing the best out in each and every pupil in an international environment. In SSM, they have high expectations of their students.

The SSM curriculum emphasizes the following essential qualities that all SSM students work towards: Understanding the importance of doing "higher thinking" in all subjects; respect for the home country and the family unit; willingness to serve the interest of the larger community; high regard and thirst for a holistic education; understanding and embracing Information Technology (IT); personal integrity and discipline; appreciation of a multicultural and multi-religious world, and; appreciation of the environment within which they live.

Now on its second year, SSM has students who come from more than 11 countries, providing truly an international environment for learning and sharing.

SSM seeks partnerships with every member of the school community to ensure that its learners become global citizens.

Singapore School Manila is located at Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City. For more information, call 851-1221 or 851-0022, or log on to www.singaporeschoolmanila.com.

MAX'S PARTIES RAFFLE WINNER

Miriam de Leon (2nd from left) of Ilocos Norte, along with son Justin, receives a P25,000 Toy Kingdom shopping spree gift certificate as monthly winner of the Max's Parties and Functions Toyota Avanza Treat promo. Also shown are, left, Maricris Sunga of Toy Kingdom and Marc San Juan, assistant marketing manager of Max's.

Phil Food Expo 7 to highlight regional food

THE PHILIPPINES BOASTS OF A rich variety of food products because of the abundance of its natural resources. There are thousands of equally exciting and delectable food products that are only enjoyed locally, but deserve their places in the international niche. Discover these and more as the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoodex) Inc, the country's biggest umbrella organization of local food processors and exporters, holds the 7th Philippine Food Expo at the SM Megatrade Halls, SM Megamall from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2008. This year's edition will highlight regional food products and services through the "First Regional Food Fair." The event is supported by the Department of Agriculture, DTI, SM Megamall, Philexport, Philexim, and the Buy Pinoy Movement of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Interested exhibitors can call event organizer Cut Unlimited at 687-0654/687-2955 or e-mail cut@pldtdsl.net.

Call for entries to 'Ilaw ng Pasko' lantern parade

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPpines (CCP), in partnership with the Manila Broadcasting Co (MBC), mounts "Pamaskong Pinoy", a unique Filipino Christmas celebration slated at the CCP grounds from Dec. 18 to 22.

Highlights include "Ilaw ng Pasko", a lantern float parade, back to back with a choral competition among children's choirs in Metro Manila.

CCP and MBC thus invite colleges, universities, and technical institutes specifically offering Fine Arts, Engineering or Architecture programs to join the lantern-float parade.

A maximum of 12 entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of the registration form, with each school limited to only one entry. Under the guidance of the class advisors, floats must be constructed by the students to depict the theme "Paskong Pinoy", and must be dominated by the use of lights. These floats will be paraded on all nights from Dec. 18 to 22 around the CCP complex.

Participating school groups will be given a subsidy of P75,000 for each float, inclusive of all requirements such as the truck and generator set. The champion team will receive P200,000 plus a trophy and other gifts courtesy of Star City, while 2nd and 3rd runners up will receive P100,000 and P50,000 respectively.

Entries will be judged according to adherence to theme (30 percent), design and concept (35 percent), and technical workmanship (35 percent).

For complete contest mechanics and other details, call Eloi Baltazar at 832-6125.

TREA
GOVERNOR
SECRETARY
REGENT
VICE PRESIDEN
PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT-ELEC

ICS-PS 58TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The International College of Surgeons-Philippine Section (ICS-PS) is holding its 58th annual convention from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 at the Hyatt Casino and Hotel, Pedro Gil corner MH Del Pilar, Malate, Manila. With the theme 'Keep the Torch Burning: Success Towards Significance', the 3-day convention aims to impart new knowledge and updates in the realm of surgery and its allied specialties. Special guests to grace the opening ceremonies are former President Fidel V. Ramos and Mayor Alfredo Lim. Presidents of different prestigious medical and surgical societies will honor the event. There will also be five foreign and numerous homegrown speakers to give lectures and interactive sessions. For more inquiries, call the ICS-PS at 928-1190. Shown are the ICS-PS executive council 2006-2007. Standing, from left: Drs Ricardo Fulgencio II, treasurer; Ernesto Acosta (governor); Teresita Ortin-Oliver (governor); Jesus Sison Jr (secretary), and Delmer Gensolin (regent). Seated: Drs Placido Calimag Jr (vice president); Nicasio Salang Jr (president); and Edwin Argonzá (president-elect). Dr. Antonio Cabigas is also governor of the 2006-2007 executive council.

The how tos of real estate investing

A SERIES OF LECTURES ON THE DIFferent how tos of investing in real estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate for prospective investors, developers, landowners and realty professionals who are expected to gain sufficient insights and confidence to finally implement proposed real estate investments. As real estate is now booming, participants will learn the ABCs of real estate principles and avoid costly mistakes that were normally suffered by inexperienced investors, and thus guiding them to a pleasant and successful real estate business.

Numerous issues concerning real estate investment such as opportunities, Joint Ventures, government rules, property management, taxation and marketing would be discussed in this series of seminars which would be conducted from 1:30 to 6 p.m., Nov. 26, 28, Dec. 3, 5, 7 and10 at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, 2nd Level, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, City.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: Nov. 26-Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What are Needed to Learn before Investing; Nov. 28-How to Start and Manage A Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; Dec. 3-Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Dec. 5-Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; Dec. 7-Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; and Dec. 10-Taxation of Real Estate Sales and other Transactions.

This lecture series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who has more than 40 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, 796-8019 or 0916-4269174 or 0921-6839431 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

BLACKBEARD'S SEAFOOD ISLAND NOW OPEN

Blackbeard's Seafood Island is now open at Eastwood City, Libis. It now joins its other branches at Fiesta Market! Market! In Fort Bonifacio Global City and at Shopwise Arcade, Araneta Center, Cubao. Its menu categories include pica-pica, soups and salads, hot plates (sizzling/assorted sisig), kinilaw, seafood in fisherman's sour broth, crabs a la carte, crabs by the basket, fresh Visayan blue crabs/California crabs, oysters and clams, barbecue and deep fried 'trippings', seafood rice, vegetables and desserts. Seafood Island's all-time favorite Boodle Feast comes complete with rice and grilled seafood selections, and placed in a 3-square-foot wooden tray lined with banana leaves. Sharing has never been this fun. For reservations, call 913-5701, 886-7692, or 913-2694.

HEAVEN 'N EGGS NEW PLATE

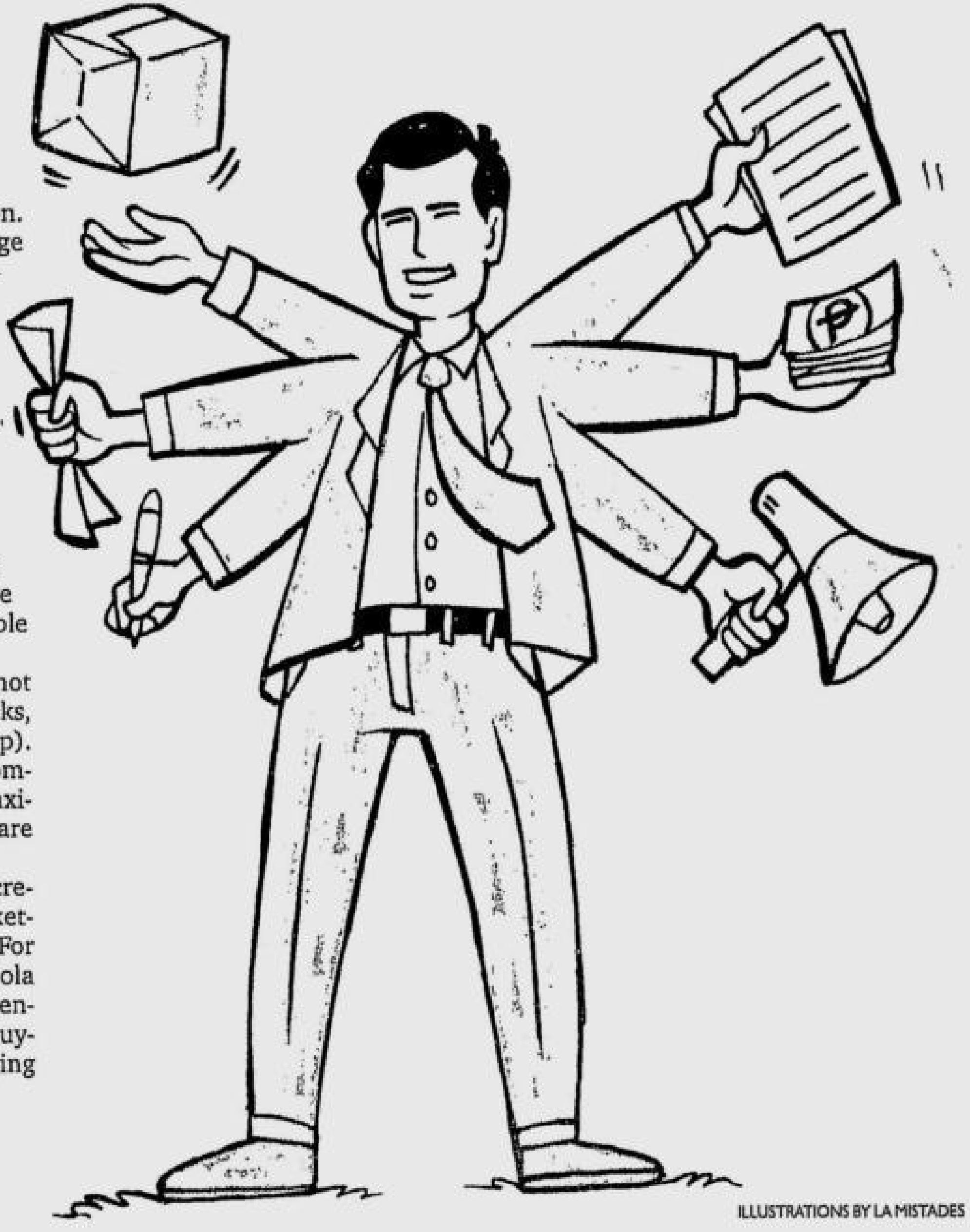
Heaven 'n Eggs' All-Day Classics, Asian Big Plates, pastas, sandwiches, French toasts, wraps, heavenly pancakes, Heaven's waffles, steaks, lunch and dinner baskets, omelets and scrambles, salads, soups and appetizers. Heaven 'N Eggs dinner baskets, Steak Fingers 'n Calamari Rings, Heaven's Fish 'N Chips Basket. These are all mouth-watering offerings of Heaven 'N Eggs located at the CKB Building in Tomas Morato, Quezon City (376-2674), ground floor Glorietta 4 (818-2792), Fuente Circle in Eastwood City (912-1172) and Market! Market! (889-3791) and Trinoma Mall North Triangle, Quezon City (901-3608). There's more. Heaven 'N Eggs also offers the Basket of Chickies, Brazil vs Germany, Chicken Teriyaki and Tempura Basket. A must try is Heaven's Garden Salad with shrimp and mandarin oranges, Oriental Chicken Salad, Chilled Fusilli Salad with Calamari, Grilled Chicken Caribbean and Fiesta Salad.

CEBUANA LHUILLIER PROVIDES HEALTHCARE PLAN

With the recent memorandum of agreement signing between Cebuana Lhuillier and Maxicare HealthCare Corp, the pawnshop company and its affiliate companies continue to grant its employees a health maintenance and illness prevention plan provided by the HMO now on its 3rd year. Shown is Maxicare president Jose Pastor Puno shaking hands with Cebuana Lhuillier CEO and president Jean Henri Lhuillier with Maxicare chief actuary Vic Tanjuakio and Cebuana Lhuillier chief administrative officer Miko Jimenez.

Marketing Leadership

1. Do your homework.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY LA MISTADES

MARKETING IS A WAY OF LIFE, A PHILOSOPHY of doing business so it must pervade an entire organization. Marketing enhances the value proposition of a company or brand, product or service to convince prospective consumers to prefer one's brand against the competition, influence their attitude and drive behavior. Thus, marketing is what any entity must do.

Leadership, on the other hand, is what any entity must have so that the concept of Marketing Leadership consists of an entity that is consistently marketing-driven, consumer-focused and customer-oriented. This is borne out of a deep respect for the principle that the consumer is king. The consumer is the boss, not your superior, because ultimately, the consumer has the power to fire even the chair of the board.

If an entire organization exercises Marketing Leadership, then it is bound to produce Leadership Marketing, characterized by sound strategy and excellent execution, salient brands built on strong brand positioning statements, superior or innovative services or product and package offerings, pricing that presents attractive value-for-money (not necessarily cheap), integrated marketing communications consisting of world-class advertising campaigns that are brought to life below-the-line via experiential marketing events, and availability that provides the right product or service at the right time, at the right place and in the right quantity.

Ultimately, a company characterized by Marketing Leadership produces Leadership Marketing in the marketplace which then leads to the ultimate reward of Market Leadership for a brand.

Here are 12 Principles of Marketing Leadership:

1. Do your homework—Study. Read. Watch. Learn. Listen. To the 4 Cs—consumers, competitors, customers, company—Sales, R&D, suppliers, friends and even foes. Be market-oriented, consumer-driven and fact-based. Know global best practices. Study the history of your industry, company and brand—those who do not appreciate the past are doomed to repeat it. Do your SWOT.

2. Invest in research—If you think the price of education is expensive (i.e., research), imagine the cost of ignorance. But while research is vital, it can only facilitate, not replace, decision-making. I believe in research but not in researching everything, because gut feel, judgment and wisdom improve over time. Apply research to segment markets and focus on the most appropriate segment to attract.

3. Take it to the next level—In all aspects of the marketing mix. Get better every year and every day. Live the Olympic spirit: Faster, higher, stronger. World-class marketing is "Excellent quality at cyberspeed and at least cost." Andrew Carnegie said, "Learn to say 'No' to the good, so you can say 'Yes' to the best!"

4. Reinforce brand equity—Via excellent marketing programs and communication campaigns that build on strong brand positioning statements which are important, specific and unique for consumers and anchored on in-depth insight that is superior to the competition.

Classic examples that have crossed boundaries and endured time are Marlboro's "Come to where the flavor is. Come to Marlboro Country!," Singapore Airlines' "Singapore Girl—A great way to fly," Nike's "Just do it," "Intel Inside," Mastercard's "Priceless," the Absolute Vodka bottle, Avis' "We Try Harder." Visa's "All it takes" and Fedex's "We deliver" are great regional campaigns.

Locally, we have Safeguard's "Skin-Germ Protection," Alaska Milk's "Walang Tatalo sa Alaska," Jollibee's "Langhap Sarap," San Miguel Beer's "Iba Ang May Pinagsamahan" and Surf's "Wais si Lumen."

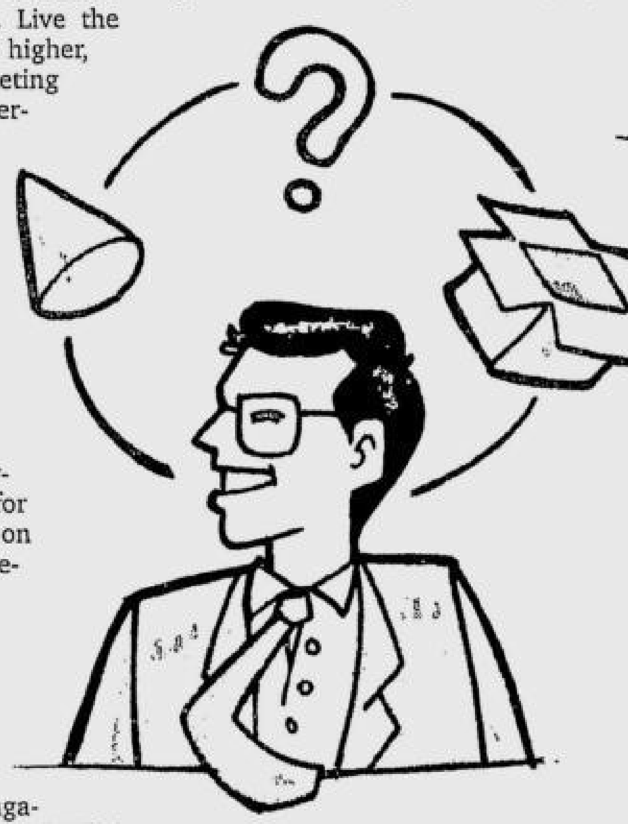
5. Reinvent your brand—Constantly, but without losing your brand's essence or DNA. Sterling examples would be Apple's "Think Different" mantra (Mac, iPod, iPhone), Nike's "Just do it" and Adidas' "Impossible is Nothing," McDonald's "I'm loving it," offering healthier choices, and Levi's latest Copper Collection. The key is delivering the same message but in a refreshingly new and relevant way.

Take it to the next level.

6. Do more with less—Focus on raising productivity of your budget. Demand world-class, effective advertising from your creative agency. Require cost-effective strategies, plans and buying from your media outfit. Restore credibility in advertising via advertising that sells or "work that works." Turn PR into a competitive advantage because it is more credible vs commercial advertising.

Bear in mind some brands do not even have any advertising (Starbucks, Google, Viagra and the Body Shop). Forge strategic partnerships with complementary products/brands to maximize synergies, cross-sell and share costs.

7. Think creatively—To offer creative solutions to a variety of marketing issues and business problems. For instance, when Pepsi lost the US cola wars to Coke, they turned their attention to noncarbonated beverages, buying Gatorade and Tropicana, and tying up with Unilever for Lipton tea and with Starbucks for Fraps. As a result, they were able to convert their failure in colas to success in Non-Carbs, Frito-Lay's savory snacks and fastfood (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell).



7. Think creatively.

8. Priorize your options—Apply the basic principle of economics, i.e., optimum allocation of scarce resources. Pick your battles. Be decisive. Which geography do we compete in? Which industry, category, brand? Which do I priorize among the 4P's, ATL vs BTL, Production vs Media, Consumer vs Trade promotions?

9. Take calculated risks—Learn from mistakes as much as from successes. Even John Gokongwei is happy with 1 home run out of 5 "swings" at bat. When in doubt, test with consumers. Learn from mistakes committed by others, e.g., physicians conduct post-mortems or mortality conferences if a patient dies in their care so other physicians may learn from the experience for future reference.

2. Invest in research.

10. Expand your horizons—Think beyond your industry to learn and "practice" your principles because you are talking to the same consumer. For instance, if you are engaged in the FMCG industry, study marketing and communications campaigns of fashion, retail, real estate, banking, pre-need plans, media, telecommunications (service or units), automobile and transportation, or appliances.

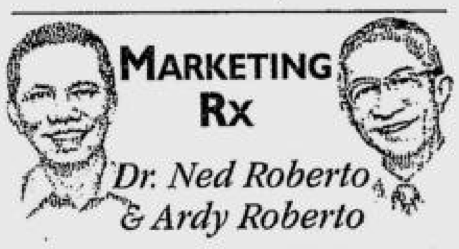
Go beyond your borders. Travel to advanced markets and spend time observing consumers. I guarantee you will learn immensely for local adaptation.

11. Leadership—Bring out the best in your people to enable them to bring out the best in your brands. An ex-colleague at P&G once advised, "The happiest manager is one who has under him managers more able than himself."

12. Integrate and synthesize all components of the business and constituencies of your organization—If you wish to master marketing, be a salesman, a promotion girl, a merchandiser. Go on sales training to gain experience and respect from your sales force and trade customers. Understand the principles of manufacturing and engineering, purchasing, warehousing and logistics. Work with your Finance and Accounting by knowing your P&L, balance sheet and cash flow statement.

These are the 12 principles of Marketing Leadership that will produce Leadership Marketing and ultimately redound to Market Leadership for your product or service.

Martin Roll on Costa Coffee: Can an alliance take on a global brand in China?



Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Battle of the brands is on in China

THIS WEEK, WE GIVE THE STAGE TO Martin Roll, author of Asian Brand Strategy published by John Wiley & Sons. MarketingRx interviewed the brand guru at the recently concluded Global Brand Forum held in Singapore. Joining us were a Filipino coffee entrepreneur who is on the verge of global success and a seasoned Filipino brand consultant based in Singapore (we will introduce them when we come out with the interview in this column) who got free branding advice from Roll.

While we're in the process of transcribing and editing the interview, here's an "appetizer" from Roll, which serves as an introduction to the upcoming interview/forum with the Filipino coffee entrepreneur.

For more branding articles, visit Martin Roll's blog—there's lots of good stuff there for branding executives and you can even get a free chapter from his book. Go visit asianbrandstrategy.com if you want more.

Here's Roll ...

China , with its huge customer base and an ever-growing economy, is attracting companies from across the globe to set up shop.

Many well known Western brands have entered China and many others are making a beginning. One thing that has emerged as a common factor from the experiences of all these companies is that China is a tough place for Western companies to do business in.

Many factors make the going tough in China but the most important one is the difficulty in understanding the local culture and preference of local customers. Being a quintessentially collectivistic society, China is completely different from the Western world and this creates some obvious challenges.

To overcome these challenges, many companies opt for either joint venture or strategic alliance route to establishing their business in China. Costa Coffee, the British coffee brand is the latest addition to the list of such companies.

Costa Coffee is part of the British leisure group Whitbread. With around 500 coffee stores in the UK and another 150 around Europe and the Middle East, Costa Coffee has been a brand to reckon with in that region.

But compared to the global market leader Starbucks that entered China in 1998 and already has around 180 outlets in China, Costa Coffee entered the Chinese market in December 2006.

Unlike Starbucks, Costa Coffee entered into a joint venture with the Yueda Group based in Jiangsu province. The logic for such a partnership is quite simple—the Costa Coffee brand being a new entrant to the Chinese market would take a long time if it went alone but a partnership with a local company would allow Costa Coffee to leverage the partner's knowledge of the local market and customers.

As attractive as it may sound, such partnerships do come with a price.

Costa's future in China will depend heavily on its partner. Currently, it is the Yueda group that will drive Costa's business. With its Italian image in Europe, Costa aspires to capture that very Italian aura in the Chinese market as well.

But such a strategy raises a very crucial question about brand experience. One of the reasons that customers pay a premium to consume coffee at a café is for the experience.

Chinese customers, especially in affluent cities such as Shanghai would aspire to identify with a global brand portraying a global image. Starbucks has been fairly successful in exploiting such a customer need.

Costa Coffee, with its Chinese partner, could face the risk of customizing the brand a bit too much. Such a step would jeopardize Costa's market aspirations. Even though the joint venture could allow Costa Coffee to understand the market faster, it would have to tread its path carefully.

It would be interesting to watch Costa's future path, given that Starbucks plans to expand in China very aggressively in the coming years and open thousands of new stores yearly.

Who wins in the war between a global brand and a joint venture between a European brand and a Chinese company is ultimately for the Chinese customer to decide.

But as long as Costa Coffee ensures that its brand essence and experience is not compromised, Starbucks can expect some competition.

(Martin Roll (www.martinroll.com) is the CEO of VentureRepublic, a leading strategic advisory firm on branding excellence, and the author of Asian Brand Strategy. He was a featured speaker at the Global Brand Forum held in Singapore. Visit www.globalbrandforum.org for more information on next year's forum. Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net.)

BUSINESS*Friday*

Humony what?

It's a new Korean invention that promises to help users shed off excess fat without necessarily going on a diet or exercise

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

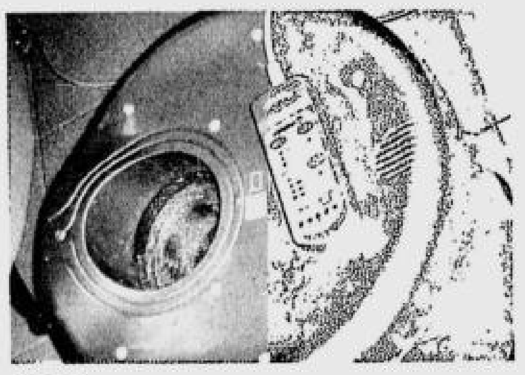
WHO KNEW INVESTING in a slimming machine could not only help in winning the battle of the bulge but also keep your bank account happy and fat?

Judy Oum, a Korean national, only wanted to shed off the excess weight she gained during her pregnancy. Last year, when she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Matthew, her waistline ballooned to 37 from 33 inches. Her weight shot up from 56 to 65 kilos.

It was not until she came across Humony, a slimming and medical machine from Korea, that Oum regained her figure to its original slim and healthy form.

She identified with the thousands, if not millions, of Filipinos who wish to become slim like her and stay that way. The entrepreneur in Oum saw the opportunity of capturing the potential market and realized that the health and beauty industry is worth dabbling in.

JUDY OUM


MOXI seat

Wasting no time, Oum quickly put up Vigen Bodycare, a beauty and health center in San Juan, Metro Manila, which features the slimming machine to capitalize on the business opportunity.

Beauty conscious

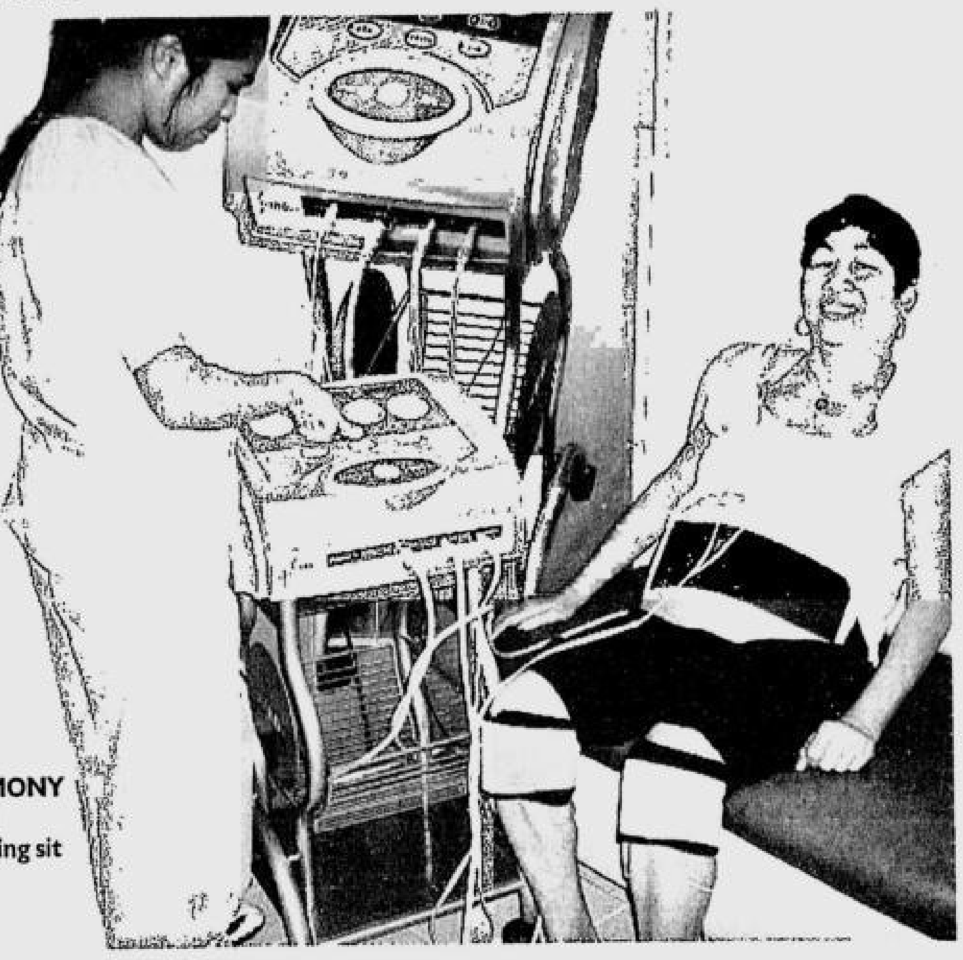
"I realized I was not the only one in the country who wanted to look and feel beautiful," Oum told the INQUIRER. "That's why I decided to bring Humony here to share this wonderful invention with others."

Two weeks ago, Oum started operations with her newly opened 280-square-meter center which houses 11 Humony machines imported from Seoul. Oum said she plans to add at least nine more to maximize the space of the well-lit, clean, and homey clinic.

Humony is a slimming machine invented by Vigen Medical in Korea which, according to Oum, distributes the equipment in more than 30 countries worldwide including the United States, Australia, Spain, Thailand, and Mexico, among others. In the Philippines, Oum owns the exclusive rights to distribute and sell Humony.

It is in the clinic where people can use the slimming machine for a nominal fee of P250 per session which lasts for 40 minutes a day.

> 'Humony will create its own niche market because it is a non-invasive machine which delivers desired results'


HUMONY with heating sit pad

Oum said results can be seen and felt after only 10 sessions without either dieting or exercising. For faster results, however, people can opt to do a two-hour session thrice daily.

Oum said she believes Humony will create its own niche market in the health and beauty industry because it is "a non-invasive machine which delivers desired results with continued use," the businesswoman pointed out. "It is getting the results of exercise without actually exercising."

Big challenge

Introducing a new product or service is a big challenge, stressed Oum, who has been living in the Philippines since 1996, especially to people like her who does not have prior business experience.

With the saturated health and beauty industry—what with slimming machines and drink formulas popping up every day all promising to trim down the inches—it can be challenging to even lure people to go to the center and try the machine.

Patience, however, does pay off. With the help of seven beauty and health attendants she hired, Oum personally visits nearby houses and establishments to explain to people how the machine works and how it is different from other fluke slimming equipment in the market.

Her team also distributes coupons which entitles holders to P4,000 worth of free trial use of Humony. That's at least 16 sessions with the Humony at absolutely no cost.

"This is because I want every one to get to try the machine and see how it works for themselves. If you have money, good. You become my good client. If not, you can always come here at the center and give the machine a try," Oum said. "There's just no excuse for anyone not to try it."

The good part is, according to Oum, who got a degree in Dentistry from the University of the East in 2002, virtually anyone can use it. Only children below four years old and those who are pregnant are discouraged to use the machine.

As part of their Christmas promo, people who avail of one session of Humony also gets to try the Top and Top body bed massage and the Moxi Seat Bath, an equipment that stimulates blood circulation and relieves back pain and myopia, among others, the businesswoman said.

Paying customers

Since the center opened on Oct. 19, customers have begun walking in the center to inquire about the product. "The first few days, it was just the coupon-holders who were coming in. Then the new, paying customers eventually came," Oum said, adding that the center now gets no less than 20 customers a day. Oum said she would throw a get-together party on Nov. 13 to formally open the center.

"People from all walks of life come in here [the center]," she said. "Employees in the nearby establishments come during their lunch breaks. They said a session with the Humony is a much better activity than sleeping at their desk," Oum said.

She said that although her center is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., she would be more than happy to extend the hours should there be requests from customers. And because it's the customers' convenience that comes first for Oum, the center is open from Mondays to Sundays as well.

"At first the customers were a bit reluctant to try Humony because they are not familiar with it. But after they have tried the machine, it is they who do not want to stop," Oum said with a laugh. She added that there are equal numbers of male and female patients coming in to try the product.

Business opportunity for people who do not have time to go to the beauty and health center every day, fret not. The slimming machine is available for purchase to the tune of P142,000 [a discounted P138,000 until the end of the year]. "This is an investment for our health we can't afford to miss," Oum said.

Investing in the Humony is also a much better business than water refilling stations and cell phone reloading centers, she said, because there is lesser risk of failure. "And whenever there are no customers, you can always hop on it and get fit yourself," Oum said in jest.

She added that owners of some gyms, salons, and spas around the San Juan area had ordered several machines already. "They plan to add it as a new feature in their businesses," Oum revealed.

Oum and her husband spent a million pesos to renovate the center and another million or so for the purchase of the Humony machines and other miscellaneous fees. But everyone does not have to start as big, she said.

"The Humony machine is a good business opportunity for new entrepreneurs, too," she pointed out. "You can buy just one machine, and start operating from your home. Immediately, you have a market with your family, friends, and neighbors around."

Oum said she is confident that the Filipino people would embrace and patronize the product. "Pinoys are beauty-conscious people. They love looking and feeling beautiful."

"And that is good," she continued. "It's about time we pay more attention to our physical and, yes, financial health."

Skills, little cash ...

From page B2-1

tended by a neighbor. It helped him a lot to finish his studies. This is where we got the inspiration to pursue microfinancing projects to give my constituents the same opportunity given to my father," Herrera-Dy said.

Change in mindset

But she said that simply giving loans is not enough. Borrowers should be willing and able to do the work required of them to pay their debt and that takes a change in mindset.

This is why before people can get a non-collateralized loan through the BH Foundation, they have to go through five seminars lasting two to three hours a session.

These seminars delve on financial concepts, values formation, the importance of paying debt and skills training.

After the training, interested microentrepreneurs are organized into groups of five. Each member can initially borrow a maximum of P5,000 or P25,000 a group and are given six months to pay.

Those who pay their loan on time can apply for another loan until they get to the maximum amount of P10,000 each.

The money comes from the Novadeci Cooperative Bank and the foundation uses the Grameen Bank system to get the women entrepreneurs of Quezon City barangays to help each other meet their loans.

Herrera-Dy said that since the program started in July 2004, in cooperation with Task Force Sikap Buhay program of the city government, almost all of the 1,000 residents of Quezon City barangays who have gone through the program have been able to meet their payments.

Moved on

Some have even stopped borrowing from the microfinance institution because they have moved on to getting bigger amounts from the rural or thrift banks.

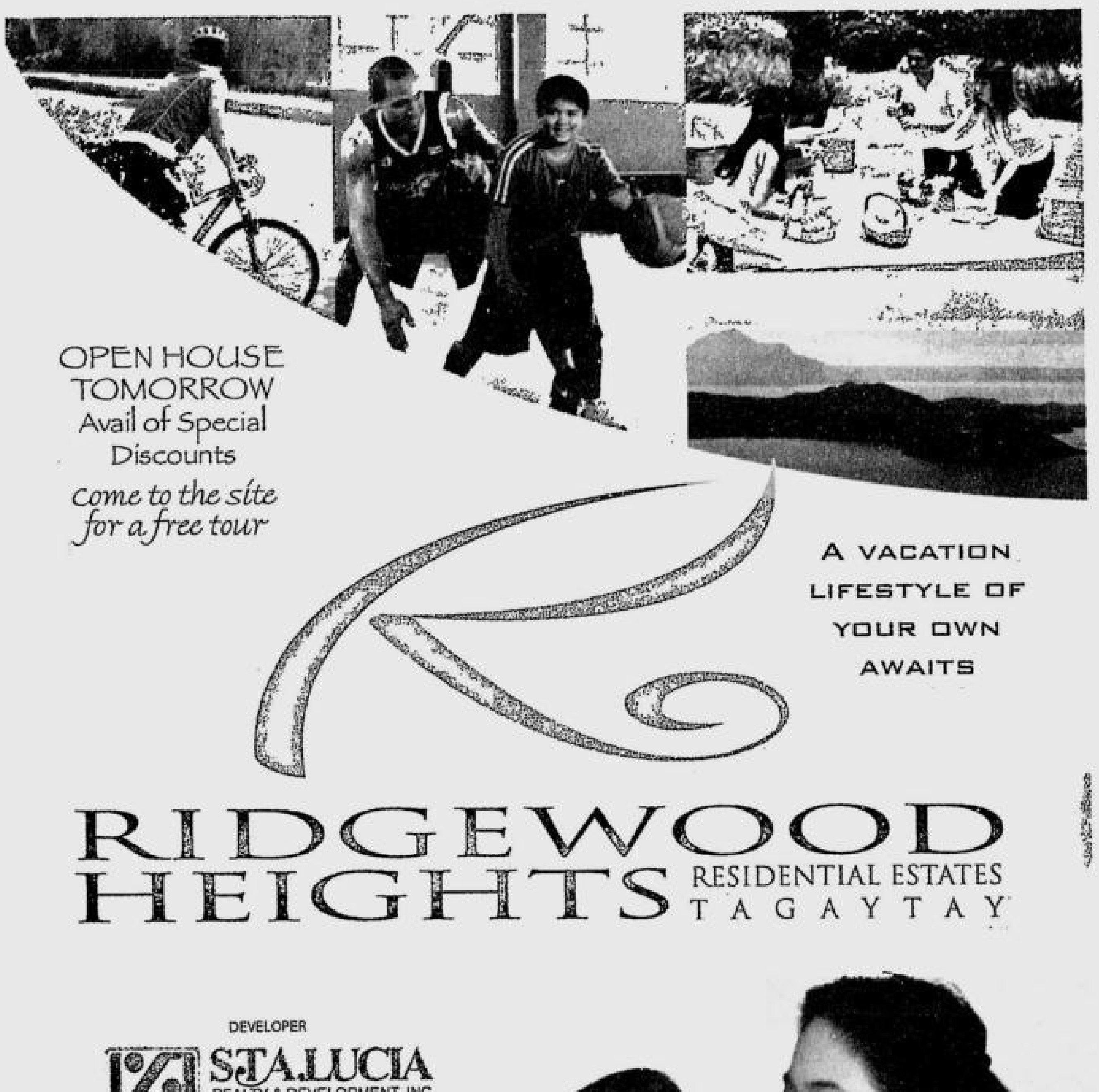
She said most of the entrepreneurs are into home-based businesses, such as *sari-sari* stores and *carinderias*. Some are selling peanut butter, cooked food, school supplies and processed meat products.

"We are continuing with the project and we want to expand it outside my district because it is doing well," Herrera-Dy said.

She said she was encouraging many of her constituents from the lower income class to pick up new skills they can earn from, such as high speed sewing, cellular phone repair, welding, haircutting, and reflexology.

"What we are telling them is that they do not need that much capital to go into business. They just need skills and a little help and they are on their way," she said.

FABER-CASTELL
TEXTLINER 1546
Super-fluorescent Highlighters
AUTO REFILL


OPEN HOUSE TOMORROW
Avail of Special Discounts
Come to the site for a free tour

A VACATION LIFESTYLE OF YOUR OWN AWAITS

RIDGEWOOD HEIGHTS RESIDENTIAL ESTATES TAGAYTAY

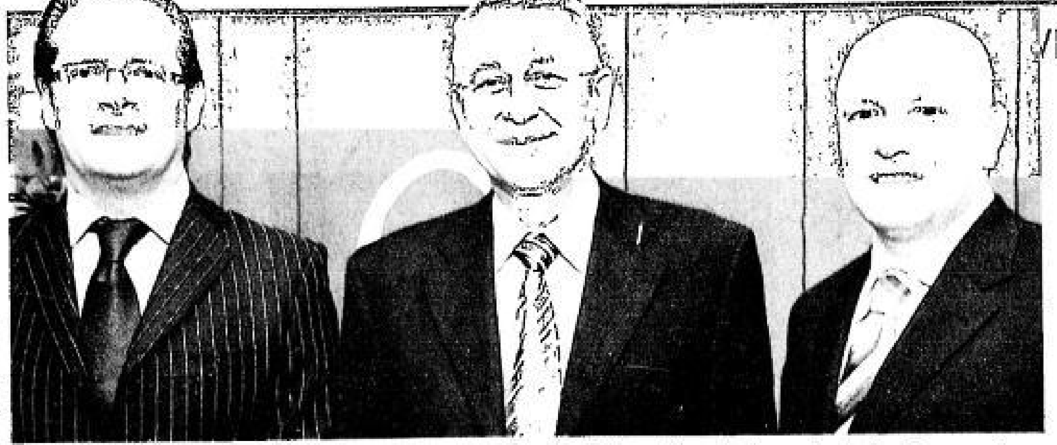
DEVELOPER
STA. LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
www.staluciarealty.com

LANDOWNERS
UCPB
RUBEN Y. LUGTU, Jr.

MARKETING NETWORK
ROYALE HOMES MARKETING CORPORATION
www.royalehomes.com.ph

Call: (02) 723-4014 / 726-4288 / 726-4317

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
WEDNESDAY 2BU ◆ THURSDAY FOOD ◆ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



JETTING in from Switzerland for the launch: Omega VP and head of product development Jean-Claude Monachon, with Swiss Ambassador Peter Sutter and Oliver Hugentobler, Omega regional sales director

OMEGA'S beautiful couple Lucy Torres and Richard Gomez

New boutique for timeless timepieces

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS A MIX OF POWER and glam, *palanggas*. We are talking about the launching of the new Omega boutique at the third level of TriNoma in Quezon City.

The shop is known as the Omega De Ville Hour Vision.

Naturellement there were tons of watch lovers everywhere, and *moi* noticed loads of them were proudly wearing their Omega watches.

Hotshot of the hour was definitely Omega Switzerland vice president and head for product development **Jean-Claude Monachon** and regional sales manager **Oliver Hugentobler**, who both jetted in just for this happening.

The Omega top men hobnobbed with Swiss Ambassador **Peter Sutter**, Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland **Manuel A.J. Teehankee**, Sen. Chiz Es-

NEW BOUTIQUE/ C2

Cool like...
TAGAYTAY
HOUSE & LOT
For as low as P16,500 a month
or P 20,900 a month with an OUTDOOR JACUZZI
TAGAYTAY Meridian
FOR INQUIRIES CALL: 807-8405/8078414 OR EMAIL: sales@asialeisureland.com

relaksasi
NOW OPEN:
PARKSQUARE 1
ROBINSONS MANILA
LEVEL 4 / MIDTOWN
SERVICES:
BODY SCRUB & WRAP RITUALS
BODY MASSAGE & SCRUB
HERBAL STEAM BATH
TRADITIONAL HOLISTIC THERAPIES
CONTEMPORARY HOLISTIC THERAPIES
FACIAL / HILOT / INFANT MASSAGE
PREGNANCY MASSAGE
FOOT MASSAGE / HAND PAMPERING
BRANCHES
SM SOUTHMALL Tel. No.: 801-9440
SM NORTH EDSA Tel. No.: 920-3787
THE COLUMNS AYALA AVENUE
ROBINSONS METRO EAST
SOON TO OPEN: SM CENTERPOINT
20% off
Promo Period
October 23 to November 23, 2007
On Selected Services
Promo Exclusive for ROBINSONS MANILA
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. A1-680 Series of 2007
a tradition of total relaxation...

Go back to the 90s.

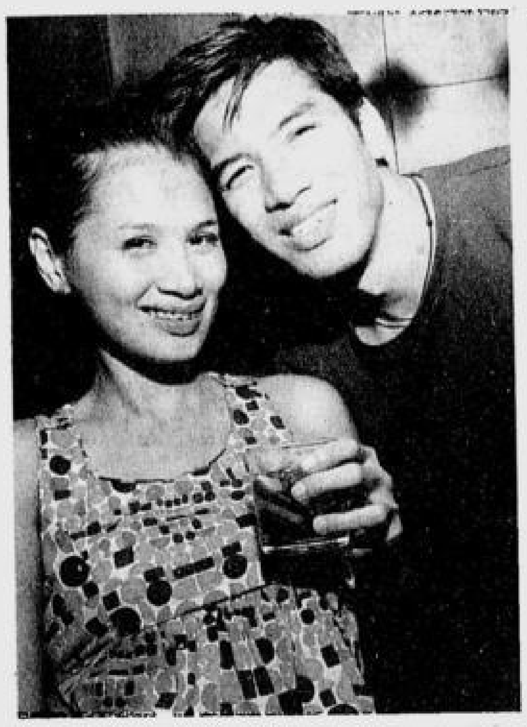
Enchanted Kingdom BLAST FROM THE PAST
Pay the ticket price of only P380 as we celebrate our 12th anniversary! Just buy any of the participating Pepsi Cola products for P50 at the gate to enjoy our original 1995 price! Everyone goes on all 18 rides with the P380 ticket! The Carousel Special at P150 will still be available. The Senior Citizen's Day Pass and Junior Day Pass will be available after the promo period. Hurry because promo runs October 17 to November 30, 2007.
Enchanted Kingdom™
The magic stays with you.
IAAPA A proud member since 1992
Park Address: San Lorenzo South, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No. 843-60-74 to 78 • Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Bitmore Condominium, 102 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City • Tel. No. 830-21-11 to 16 • Website: www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph • Email:eldarthewizard@enchantedkingdom.com.ph
See flyers for details. Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. S-09-320. Series of 2007.
BACK TO P380*
Enjoy 90s prices and longer park hours.
October 24 - 26 Wednesday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm
October 27 - 29** Saturday - Monday 10 am - 10 pm
October 30 - 31 Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am - 7 pm
November 1 - 4** Thursday - Sunday 10 am - 10 pm
*with any P50 Pepsi Cola product purchase at the gate.
**Fireworks display at 9pm on weekends and holidays

SEN. CHIZ Escudero (second from left) with Omega general manager Edith Dychiao, and Lucerne managing directors Ivan Yao and Emerson Yao

OMEGA'S young generation: Susan Lim, Mylene Abiva-Sazon, Mike Ozaeta and Milo Bondoc

OMEGA women: Joji Banzon, Betty Tee, marketing officer Beth Mancilla and Ling Ling Yao

New boutique for timeless timepieces


RUEL Gatchalian and Bacardi's woman of the hour, Bibe Martinez

NIKA Mendez, David Milan, Hannah Cruz and Janthina Fong

GANG OF 3: DJ Patch, DJ Chewy and DJ Karl Ty

MTV'S Wendell Garcia and Savannah Lumen

RONALD Passion and MTV VJ Kat Alano

DENISE Albert and Jess Wilson

TONY Tony and Victoria London

SEBASTIAN, Anne Rosero and Embassy's hotshot Erik Cua

From page C1

cudero, well-loved Quezon City Mayor **Sonny Belmonte**, and Omega's local gorgeous celebrity couple **Lucy Torres** and **Richard Gomez**, *natch*.

Omega Philippines general manager **Edith Dychiao** gave us a tour of the new Omega boutique together with Lucerne managing directors **Ivan Yao** and **Emerson Yao**, and Omega marketing manager **Beth Mancilla.**

Browsing around, *moi* was amazed. The new boutique featured furniture and display systems, especially designed and made by Omega to showcase its complete range of timeless collections.

Also featured were elegant designs from the Omega Fine Jewellery Collection, dahlings. The jewelry was a perfect complement to the launch of the innovative De Ville Hour Vision watch.

As Monsieur Monachon told us during cocktails, "With De Ville Hour Vision, all of Omega's 202 new components are showcased—all of them give a great performance and have a classical stylish look that will surely appeal to all Filipino watch connoisseurs."

Well, I was totally convinced but my wallet cried, so *moi* settled for just drooling over Omega's latest awesome collection, *palanggas*.

Steve Aoki in Manila

It has been almost a year when Brand Bacardi, *palanggas*, burst into Cosmo-Manille's party scene.

Faster than you could bat an eyelash, Bacardi has once again brought another world-class, most-sought-after DJ from the US—**Steve Aoki aka Kid Millionaire.**

Aoki played at the swinging Embassy Superclub. The gig was in cooperation with Lee-X-line and Styles Promotions.

People were queuing excitedly at the club's signature twin staircase entrance, anticipating the grand entrance of the LA superstar, who is a favorite among Hollywood's partying pack, no less, dahlings.

And it was indeed a sensational experience for us who partied with Bacardi, as Steve Aoki did not disappoint.

Kid Millionaire, as he's popularly called, did an electrifying and breathtaking display of showmanship. He even got on top of the DJ booth and jumped into the crowd in a stage dive that wow! No one would forget, fueled as the partygoers were by spirited Bacardi cocktails, *naturellement*, *palanggas*.

Celebrities spotted at the event were actor **Epi Quizon**, beautiful model **Kelly Misa**, dazzling VJs **Anne Curtis** and **Kat Alano**; hot, hot model **Ornussa Cadness**, party icon **Tim Yap**, PR and events man **GP Reyes**, gorgeous actress **Cheska Garcia**, artist **Billy Crawford**, beautiful **Iza Calzado**, very sexy **Juliana Palermo**, and many more!

It was truly an impressive event, thanks to Bacardi. We asked what mixable spirit we could do with Bacardi. We tried Bacardi Cuba Libre (Bacardi, squeeze of lime and cola), Bacardi Mojito (Bacardi, mint leaves, lime, sugar and a dash soda), and Bacardi daiquiris and Piña colada.

No wonder we emerged from Embassy at almost 4 a.m., and, would you believe, with no regrets, dahlings.

Service for Peace

Sixty young delegates of the Service for Peace (SFP) from Europe and Asia and their Filipino counterparts will sign a "Resolution of Peace" to strengthen advocacy for global peace, *palanggas*.

During a press conference at Edsa Shangri-La, the delegates agreed to work to achieve "the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations," which include the eradication of poverty and hunger and the development of global partnership for countries to become progressive.

Chair of the SFP was Gov. **Leonida "Baby" Bayani Ortiz**. Guest speaker was former senator **Joey Lina.**

Caroline Niñonuevo, SFP-Philippines executive director, had this to say, "We can start propagating peace through community service and the speedy resolution of conflicts at the grassroots level. Peace begins within ourselves through service to others."

"Foremost in the SFP program is the education and character development of young people," Ortiz said. "That's why we are advocating volunteering among them to better understand the problems around them and pursue unity and cooperation."

The SFP is a nongovernment organization which began in New York in 2001. It was established in the Philippines in 2003.

Among SFP's programs are the renovation of the Madrasah (Muslim school) in Culiat, Quezon City; the holding of leadership trainings for the youth; providing livelihood programs for the Aetas in Pampanga; and resolving conflicts between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao.

Currently, SFP is heightening awareness of volunteering among our young people through community service. *Moi* was so proud of the awesome young foreign and Filipino delegates who, against all odds, stayed with poor families and learned Filipino culture at the grassroots, *palanggas*.

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Switzerland Manuel A.J. Teehankee

QUEZON City Mayor Sonny Belmonte

ADEL Tamano

ELLEN and Roberto Claudio of Toby's

MASTERCARD'S Judith Dayrit and Chris Paraiso

SERVICE for Peace delegates Lucas Schwyter (USA), Ester Koetsier (Holland), Pascual Haider (Austria) and Juan Pigne (Spain)

PEOPLE who care: Nini Layug and Palmy Layug

COM. RAMON Moreno, Ophie Reyes and Major Ebra M. Moxsir, Al-Haj

GUEST speaker former senator Joey Lina with Service for Peace chairperson Gov. Baby Ortiz

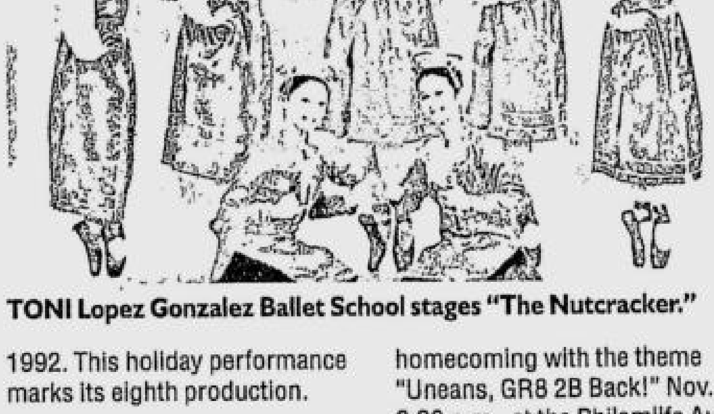
ENGINEER Sirad Alonto Abantas and Bedorie Hamidah M. Abantas

SUPAPORN and Michael Zablan

GOINGS ON

Ballet school showcases Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker'

SWINGING SNOWFLAKES, waltzing flowers and dancing soldiers. Toni Lopez Gonzalez Ballet School breathes life to these characters as it stages "The Nutcracker" Nov. 4 and 11, 5 p.m., at the CCP Little Theater. "The Nutcracker," which is based on a German children's fairytale, is a well-loved Christmas ballet in two acts, with music by Tchaikovsky. Toni Lopez Gonzalez, former principal dancer of Washington Ballet and Ballet Philippines, choreographs the different numbers for her students, with the grand pas de deux after Marius Petipa's. Gonzalez, founder and director of the school, is a second-generation ballet dancer. Toni Lopez Gonzalez Dance School, based in Corinthian Gardens, has been training future ballerinas since 1992. This holiday performance marks its eighth production.


TONI Lopez Gonzalez Ballet School stages "The Nutcracker."

HOMECOMING. The Uno High School Alumni Association Inc. (UHSAAI) will hold its 19th homecoming with the theme "Uneans, GR8 2B Back!" Nov. 25, 2:30 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium, United Nations Avenue, Manila. Call 2521920 or 0927-32999363.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

After its first highly successful bazaar, Venture 7 will again hold its second of three bazaars at the Ballroom of Renaissance Makati Hotel (formerly New World) Nov. 10, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Venture 7's dynamic and hardworking ladies are Celine Bautista, Pilie Barranachea, Linda Villadelgado, Chit Gohu, president and chair Fanny Blanco, Fortune Ledesma, and Lita Gelano. Beneficiaries are Makabata Foundation and Virlanie Foundation. Major credit cards will be accepted. Call 8439507, 8150669 (Jenny) and 0915-7885109. Their last bazaar for the year will be on Dec. 2 at Hotel Intercontinental.

KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY IN A BIG WAY AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

Enjoy SM Mall of Asia's Pre-Holiday Special offers and get an early start on the best deals of the season. The biggest finds are all waiting for you. Don't delay!

October 30 to November 4

SM
MALL OF ASIA
No Other Mall Comes Close

SM Mall of Asia J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

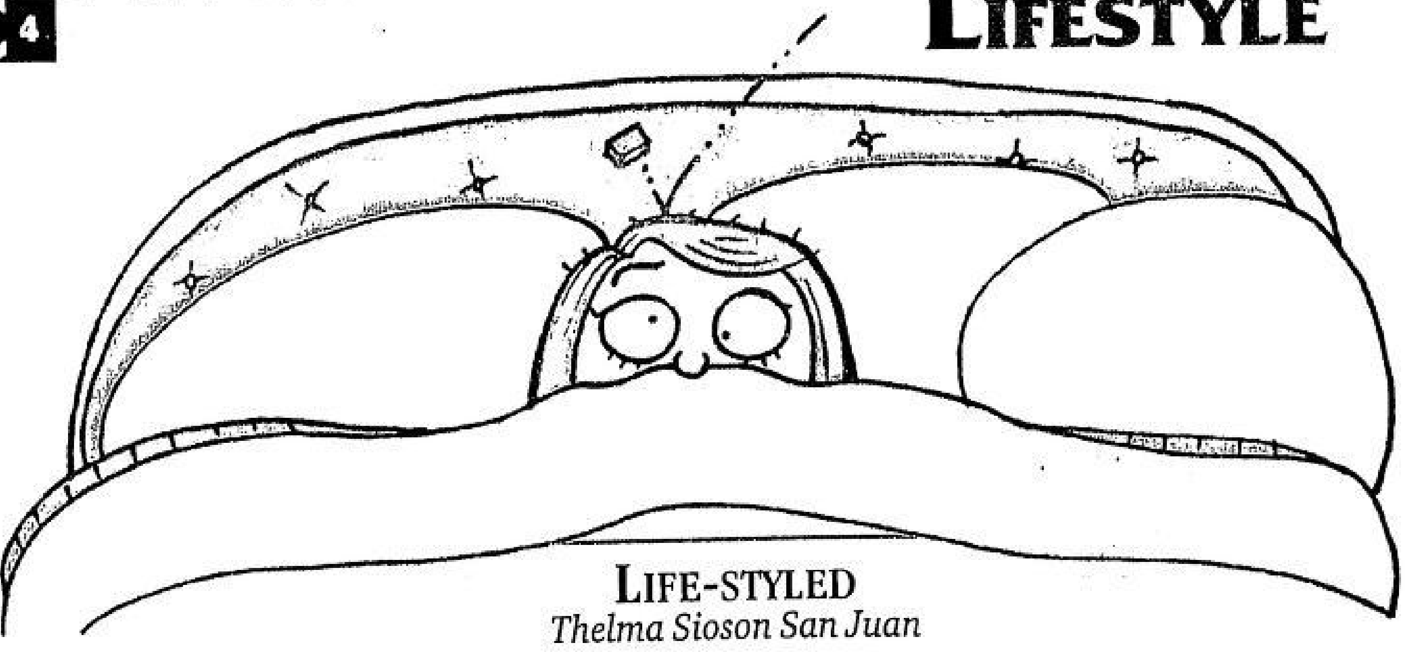


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Ghost-hunting in chic hotels

I'M NOT REALLY proactive when it comes to spirits, elementals and the like. I don't go out of my way to connect to them, not even to gain their attention. It's the other way around.

It must have been sometime around June or July 2001, two months before 9/11, when I realized that otherworldly entities—not only the corporate variety—loved to pick on me.

We were staying in a designer boutique hotel in New York, an "in" address that had been written up much for its Philippe Starck accoutrements. I had dozed off in mid-afternoon in my room when, as if half-awake, I saw an amorphous image of a woman oozing out of the Prada headboard, formless like a vapor, her very long hair undulating as if in the wind; her spindly arms outstretched, pulling me into that headboard.

Dreaming or not, I struggled to wake up—you know the feeling of having a nightmare. Scary. And I was pretty sure that long-haired vision wasn't Anna Bayle.

Since then, I have developed a distrust for hotel rooms, opulent or chic or exotic—not exactly the right attitude to take for media that often get invited to junkets. I have become more—how to put it—"sensitive"—to beyond-the-normal presence. The more idyllic the accommodations, the more suspicious I am.

Why not? Sometime ago, in a 14th-century old mill inn in Salisbury, England, my room in the attic overlooked a postcard-pretty lake, with swans gliding on it. What a breathtaking scenery on early morning.

The middle of the night, however, my heart pounded to all kinds of slight sounds beyond my doorstep.

It is with such overstimulated imagination as mine that my travelmates are stuck with. **Ethel Timbol** has gotten so used to it. In a presidential villa that came with an infinity-edge pool, two suites with curtains drawn by remote control, and an attic, she knew me enough to accept that our two nights would be forced dual confinement (with me, who else?).

In the afternoon, as I prepared to take a dip in the pool and had called the service staff to clean it a bit, I thought I heard a "psst!" in my room. Thinking it was the staff that had come for the pool cleaning, I shouted out for the intruder to wait outside my room, until another "psst!" came. It felt like it was coming from the same spot in the bedroom. I stepped out to an empty living room and lanai.

Uh, oh. That night I planted myself on Ethel's humongous bed, no matter that it would be her first time to share a bed in decades—a smart decision (mine, not Ethel's solid celibacy), it turned out, because that night the entire sprawl was plunged into darkness because of power interruption.

The next morning, power was restored in the vast estate, except in my room. The engineering staff couldn't figure out why, after tinkering with the electricals for an hour or so. Since it was checkout time, and the remote-controlled curtains couldn't be drawn, I requested the butler to hold the light—and keep me company—while I hurriedly packed in the dark, then made my brisk exit, saying goodbye and "excuse my intrusion" to the unseen powers-that-be in my room. (Why do I always have a run-in with "powers-that-be"?)

But don't get me wrong, not every hotel room has unleashed its strange vibes on me. There are rooms where you don't really feel anything, if not good vibes. We've stayed in ancient beauties like Paris or London, or formerly war-torn places like Hanoi or Phnom Penh, and nothing happened.

But come to think of it, in Phnom Penh, didn't I hear hammering and wood-clinking sounds at 2 a.m.? Must have been construction job, my friends told me. At two? But it was a lovely feeling in this historic hotel, where the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Kennedy had once stayed. Such chic hauntings.

From the moon

"It was the first fashion show visible from the moon"—**Bernard Arnault**, the LVMH chair, said this about the much talked-about Fendi fashion show pulled off by **Karl Lagerfeld** in the Great Wall of China recently.

Costing over $10 million to stage, it was the first time a fashion show was staged atop the Great Wall itself, a 4,000-mile-long landmark. The runway, of course, didn't run that long—just an 88-meter long runway, with 88 models, eight being the lucky number among the Chinese.

Fendi flew in more than 80 staff. The bench-style seats for the celebrity audience—led by the Chinese prime minister's wife seated beside Arnault—were even heated. The show also marked the relaunch of the iconic Baguette bag of Fendi.

According to Women's Wear Daily, China ranks third in Fendi sales in Asia, after Hong Kong and South Korea, but is expected to overtake those two soon. Louis Vuitton sales in Shanghai, according to WWD, are more than in Chicago. WWD titled the story "Genghis Karl."

> I have developed a distrust for hotel rooms, opulent or chic or exotic. I have become more 'sensitive' to beyond-the-normal presence

---

GOINGS ON

Photography workshop Nov. 10

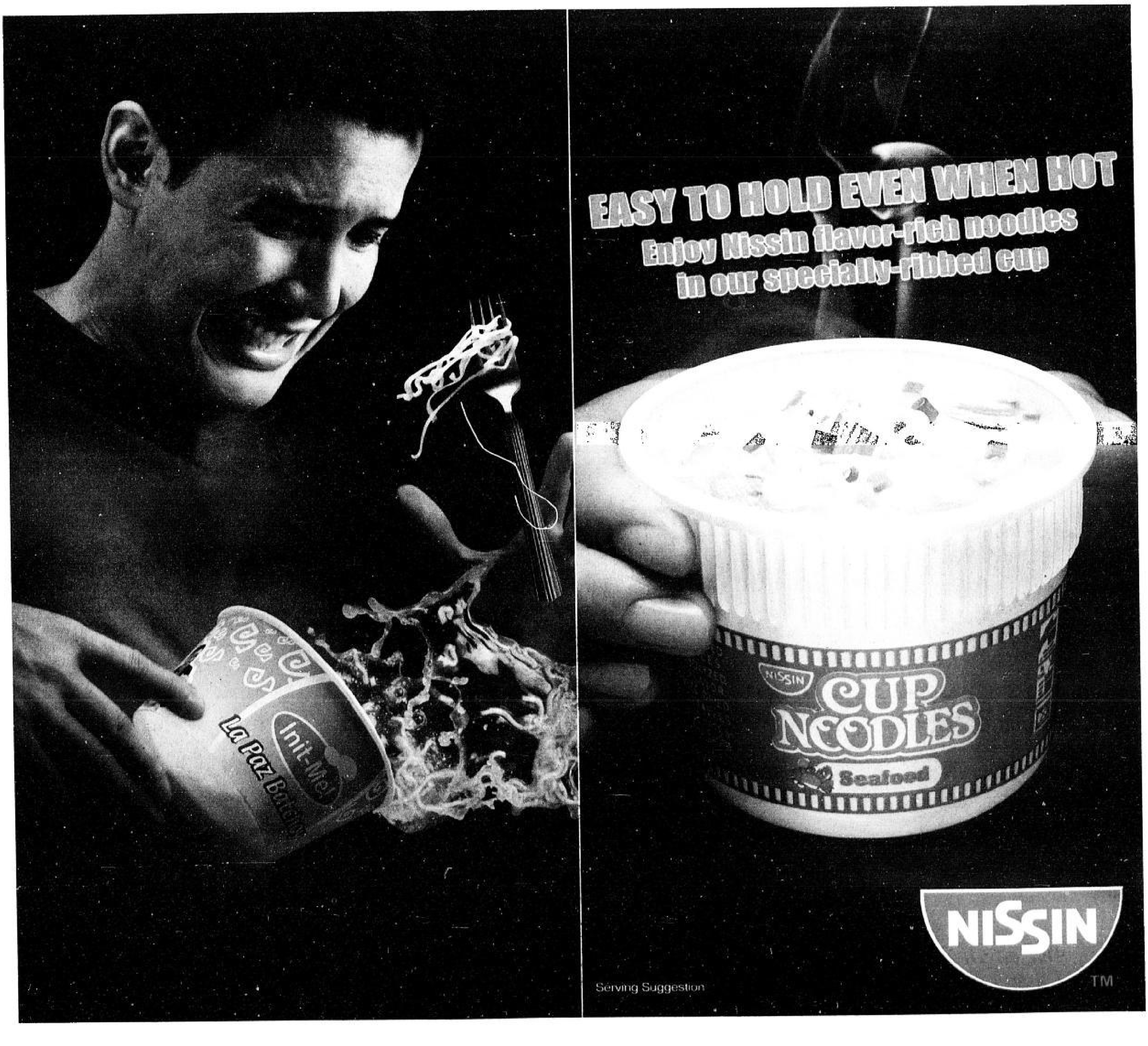
THE FIRST ACADEMY OF COMPUTER arts will hold a workshop by renowned photographer Sonny Joaquin on Nov. 10, 1:30-5:30 p.m. The First Academy of Computer Arts is located at 2/F Saville Building, 8728 Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue, Makati City. Call 8982724 to 26 or visit www.firstacademy.net for more information.

COMPETITION. The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Manila Broadcasting Company present "Pamaskong Pinoy," a unique Filipino Christmas celebration on Dec. 18-22 on the CCP grounds. The highlight is "Himig ng Pasko," a choral competition among top-rated children's choirs in Manila. Call 7296254, 09063099595 or 09194885409.

EXHIBIT. The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education support the exhibit of the Mystery of the Shroud of Turin, which runs until Dec. 9 at the Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia. Call 8952966 or 6100870 or log on to www.shroudexhibits.ph or email info@shroudexhibits.ph.

RAFFLE PROMO. Finds Supermarket at Starmall Las Piñas is giving away color television sets, digital video disc players, washing machines through its Lifestyle Raffle Bonanza. For every P1,000 worth of purchase, a customer gets two raffle coupons. Promo period is until Dec. 15. Grand draw is on Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. Call 8741304.

SPECIAL RAFFLE. Makati Shangri-La's Circles Event Café presents Nissan Patrol Super Safari Raffle, until Dec. 31. Dine as a group with at least five members for lunch or dinner buffet and get a raffle stub for a chance to win the top-of-the-line luxury SUV. Call 8400884 or 8138888 local 7588/7599.


EASY TO HOLD EVEN WHEN HOT
Enjoy Nissin flavor-rich noodles
in our specially-ribbed cup
La Paz Batchoy
Init-Mei
NISSIN
CUP NOODLES
Seafood
NISSIN
TM
Serving Suggestion

Contributing Editor
Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

With proper care and the help of Gluta products, fair skin is yours to have

Beauty tip: For fairer skin, use whitening skin-care lines that can make your skin lighter from head to toe.

Dreaming in white

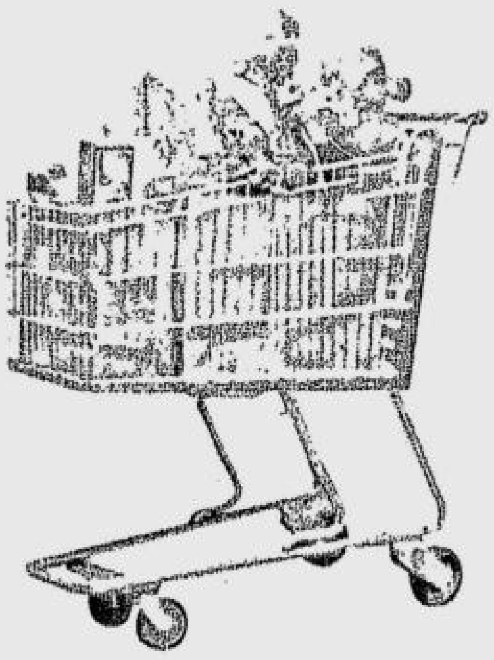
UNLIKE MOST FILIPINAS who wish they were lighter skinned, I actually wish I were darker. I guess it's like those Westerners who want what they don't have and so spend a lot on expensive spray tan to get darker skin.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

But for most Filipinas, it's the skin tone of a porcelain doll that they aim for. Some even resort to using face powder that is two shades lighter. The result: Yes,

DREAMING/ D2



Robinsons Supermarket

Go healthy and nutritious.

It's a brand new start to a better life at Robinsons Supermarket!

ALL ROBINSONS MALLS
Araneta Square, Caloocan City
Banilad Town Center, Cebu
Berkeley Square, Commonwealth
Circle C Center, Congressional

Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
Nagaland, E-Mall, Naga City
Nepo Mall, Dagupan
Nepo Mall, Angeles, Pampanga
Malabon Citisquare

Metropolis Star Alabang
Susano Complex, Novaliches
Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tutuban Center
Blue Wave, Marikina

Eat Well
Spend Less

ナガラヤ
NAGARAYA®
the healthy CCRRUnnCCH
NAGARAYA
Pretzels
Pretzels
ORIGINAL CRACKER NUTS
0% TRANSFAT CHOLESTEROL
CRACKER NUTS

OWNER Cielo Petines

CIELO Salon

Local products with high standards

BATH AND BODY ADDICTS WOULD be glad to know that there is a new line that is exquisitely scented, of great quality, well packaged, reasonably priced and concentrated enough that a little goes a long way.

The best part is that it is proudly Filipino, and it can hold its own against imported brands.

One of the owners, Bo Ramas-Ros, had worked closely with prestigious European and American cosmetic brands for over 10 years. Even after she resigned from the company, her fastidious taste stayed with her. She then thought of formulating her own bath line with the quality she was used to but with a reasonable price tag. She named it Brook & Ivy because based on experience with toiletries, she said a brand must have a "foreign" name for people to take notice of it amid the sea of competitors.

There are five groups of fragrances with four products in each group: Body buff (P225/185g), shower gel (P165/250ml), body milk (P195/250ml) and skin spray (P225).

The scent stays on your body and lingers in the bathroom long after you are done.

Lavender Garden's scent is similar to L'Occitane. Ginger Patch reminded me of the Origin's Ginger line. Olive Grove is a combination of the Tact, Durance and Fruits and Passions olive oil line. It has a masculine note so it may be more suitable for men.

Tea Fusion is similar to Elizabeth Arden's Green Tea fragrance line. Vanilla Vine is like Laura Mercier's Crème Brûlée line but slightly milder.

Brook & Ivy products are available at Shopwise and select Rustan's supermarkets.

New salon

Simply called Cielo Salon, this modern glass wall structure is at the ground floor of the Columns Building in the corner of Ayala Avenue and Buendia Street, Makati.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Owner Cielo Petines had very definite ideas on how she wanted her dream salon to be. Over the years as an experienced makeup artist, with a degree in cosmetology from the Center for Aesthetic Studies and becoming makeup artist for Make-up Forever, she has been exposed to numerous salons but none of them hit the spot.

Now that she has her own salon, her main objective is to bring back the age of glamour when women dressed up to go to the salon. That's the era of Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, and Ingrid Bergman as contrasted with the era of the supermodels such as Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford, when women dragged their feet into salon doors and looked as if they had just rolled out of bed.

I have road-tested some of the services.

Haircut by John Imperio, a senior stylist, costs P600. I had my haircut late due to a very harassed schedule so my dark roots were visible, the ends dried up and thinned, and the crown was flat and thinning out so bad you could see my scalp.

John kept my hair long but removed two inches from the tips and gave me more fullness at the crown. My hair looked instantly thicker with more body and was more manageable.

Colorist Joy Lopez gave me a darker base color—medium brown—to suit the upcoming season, and she wove very fine highlights in shades of gold, all under John's supervision. It flattered my natural skin tone even without makeup.

The hair treatment from Revlon's line of professional hair products was like a tall drink of water on my dehydrated strands, restoring shine, durability and a thicker texture.

I bonded most with Maricon as she gave the best shoulder and scalp massages at P300. She knew exactly as if by instinct the exact spot that caused me discomfort and she would not let up until those knots went away.

She also gave me a manicure (P350), but you must specify if you do not want your cuticles removed because she would automatically do so.

She also threaded my eyebrows and upper lip very efficiently.

Joy Valencia did my pedicure (P350) in a perfect semi-square with flat tops and rounded edges.

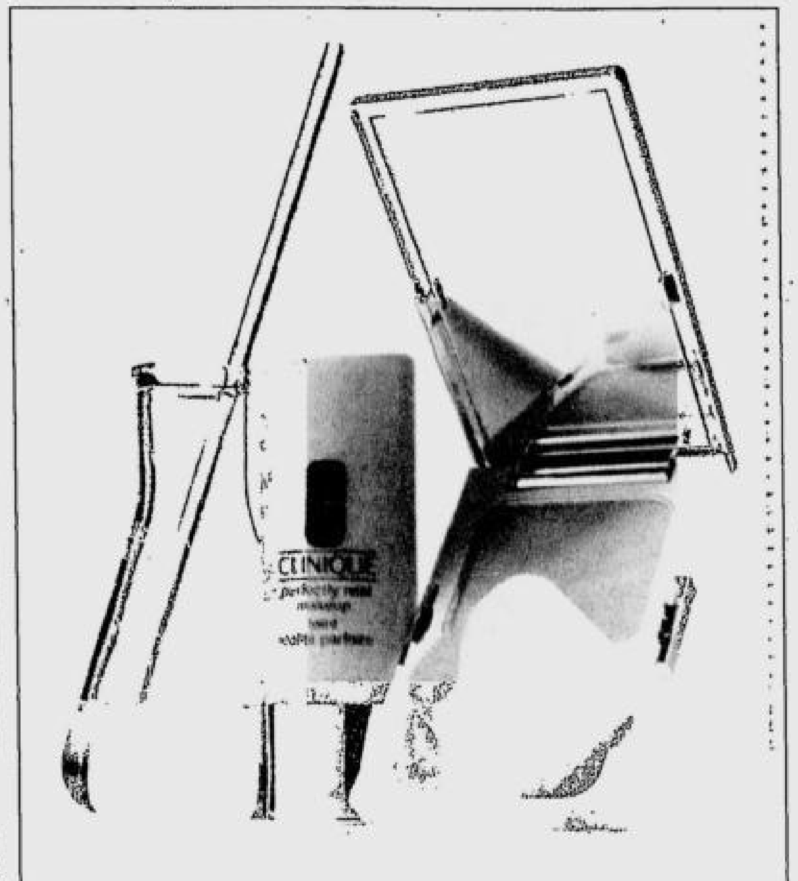
What I love about it: It is the first salon with Wi-Fi connection so I could actually answer important e-mails and continue research on the Internet. You can be glamorous and efficient at the same time!

They also do eyelash extensions (P1,500) and dreadlocks (which start at P8,000 because it takes two days and a minimum of four hours a day to complete).

You may call Cielo Salon at 9013606.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

GINGER Patch



Superfine makeup for Asian women

DEVELOPED EXCLUSIVELY for Asian women, Perfectly Real Superfine Compact Makeup SPF 15 PA++ is the most advanced powder foundation yet.

Containing a blend of advanced technologies, it helps skin look flawlessly beautiful.

With a swipe of the sponge, skin tone is evened out and imperfections are camouflaged.

The high-tech, ultra-modern formula creates an unbelievably natural-looking finish. The look of unevenness, blotchiness and redness are eliminated. This water resistant and stay true-color formula leaves skin looking silky, not dry or cakey.

The revolutionary new powder process used in this advanced formula delivers an exceptionally lightweight, natural looking makeup with a velvety feel. Incidental exposure to UVA and UVB rays is the primary cause of premature aging of the skin. Therefore, Clinique believes skin should be protected at all times. That's why Perfectly Real Superfine Compact Makeup SPF 15 PA++ offers daily protection from the sun's damaging rays.

- A blend of chemical and non-chemical sunscreen (Titanium Dioxide) provides broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection, helping keep skin looking healthier.
- Tocopherol and Ascorbyl Tetraisopalmitate are naturally powerful antioxidants that shield skin from free-radical damage.
- Squalane and Sodium Hyaluronate are moisturizing and conditioning agents, which help maintain skin's delicate moisture balance.
- A state-of-the-art new liquid-to-powder technology, during which liquids evaporate leaving a soft powder. During the process, tiny air pockets are created in the powder contributing to the exquisite, silky feel.
- Special "film formers" and ultra-light spherical polymers help contribute to the light and airy texture, which happens with the liquid evaporation.
- Micro-Mirrored Pigment Technology gives the product the ability to become more opaque when applied to imperfections by turning on a stronger opacity just in the areas of discoloration. Skin tone appears unblemished despite any flaws underneath, and the foundation goes completely undetected.
- Capillary Shell Technology recognizes changing skin conditions; prevents oil and shine breakthrough and maintains skin's moisture balance.

Perfectly Real Superfine Compact SPF 15 PA++ is available in eight diverse shades designed specifically for the complexion of Asian women.

Exclusively available at Rustan's Makati, Tower Alabang, Gateway, Cebu Ayala, Essenses Robinsons Place, Beauty Bar, Glorietta and Marionnaud, Mall of Asia.

Dreaming in white

From page D1

they have whiter faces but the necks remain dark-skinned—an unsightly combination.

The better option is to use a whitening skin care line that will get you lighter from head to toe, and not just certain parts of your body. Luckily, whitening products are abundant and have become less expensive.

When I was given Gluta White and Firm products, I was so intrigued by them. But since I didn't think I needed to get any whiter, I asked my friends in the office to try the products.

Wow, after using them, I've never seen these people happier! It was like early Christmas to them! They did visibly look whiter. Those who weren't consistent in using the products didn't get the best results, but that's par for the course for any other skin care product. When it comes to these things, dedication and patience are really needed for optimum results.

Each bag of Gluta White and Firm set comes with the complete line: Facial Wash (P199) that moisturizes as well as helps normalize and neutralize excess oil; Facial Cream (P199) that promotes collagen synthesis on the skin; Pressed Powder (P249) that makes skin look flawless and comes in three shades; Deodorant and Anti-Perspirant (P140) that promises to whiten skin in a few days; Soap (P89) that gently removes dirt and excess oil to reveal healthier lighter skin; and Lotion (P279) that acts as a whitening and toning cream to re-texturize your skin.

A reminder: just do a patch test before using these products to head off any allergic reaction. Also, stay away from the sun, so even when crossing the street, use an umbrella and spread on some SPF before leaving the house. With proper care and the help of Gluta products, fair skin is yours to have.

Goodbye to sensitive skin

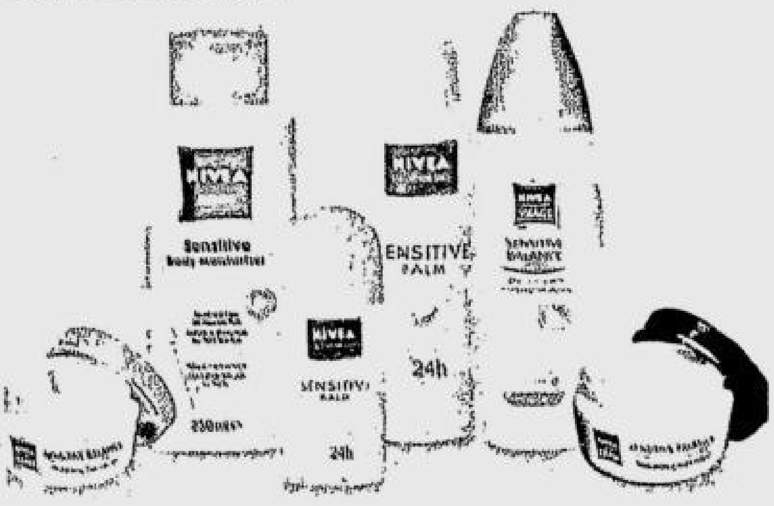
NIVEA HAS DEVELOPED the perfect formula that provides relief and protection to sensitive skin in order to maintain natural balance and reduce reactions to external influences.

Skin experts at Nivea have discovered that reduction in the skin's natural defense makes it react easily to everyday influences such as stress, temperature changes, strong cosmetic products and even jewelry.

Nivea Sensitive combines licorine, an ingredient extract from licorice wood known for its instant soothing and anti-inflammatory properties, and balancing complex, a combination of hydramine and isoprotectine that stimulates and reinforces the skin's natural resistance to harmful external influences. This unique formulation instantly calms and strengthens sensitive skin while keeping it well-moisturized.

Included in the Nivea Sensitive range are cleansing milk/makeup remover, day and night face creams, body lotion and deodorant. To avoid irritation, these products contain no colorants and no fragrances.

NIVEA Sensitive range



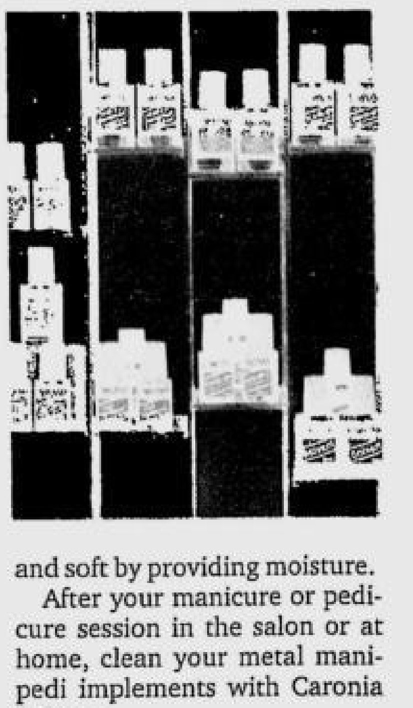
Smart nail solutions

CARONIA, THE PIONEERING brand in local nail polish and nail care, introduces a new range of products: Nail Hardener & Basecoat, Solvent, Kwik-Dry & Cuticle Conditioner, and Fast-Dry Top Coat. These smart nail care solutions in a bottle are made with top-grade ingredients to ensure professional nail care even when used at home.

The Caronia Nail Hardener & Basecoat helps strengthen nails and, if applied before your choice of Caronia nail polish color, serves as a base coat that smoothens out ridges, resulting in strong nails and a smooth, even polish.

The Caronia Fast-Dry Top Coat uses materials imported from Europe to provide an innovation to your mani-pedi experience. It has a setting time of 60-90 seconds and dries in 3 minutes. That's 40 percent faster than your regular top coat. And because it's high gloss, the colored Caronia nail polish simply shines through.

The Caronia Kwik-Dry & Cuticle Conditioner is a mineral-oil-based formulation that creates a layer of protection on newly polished nails so that dirt, dust and grime won't ruin your tips and toes. This layer allows your nail polish to dry without smudging, while it helps keep your cuticles healthy and soft by providing moisture.



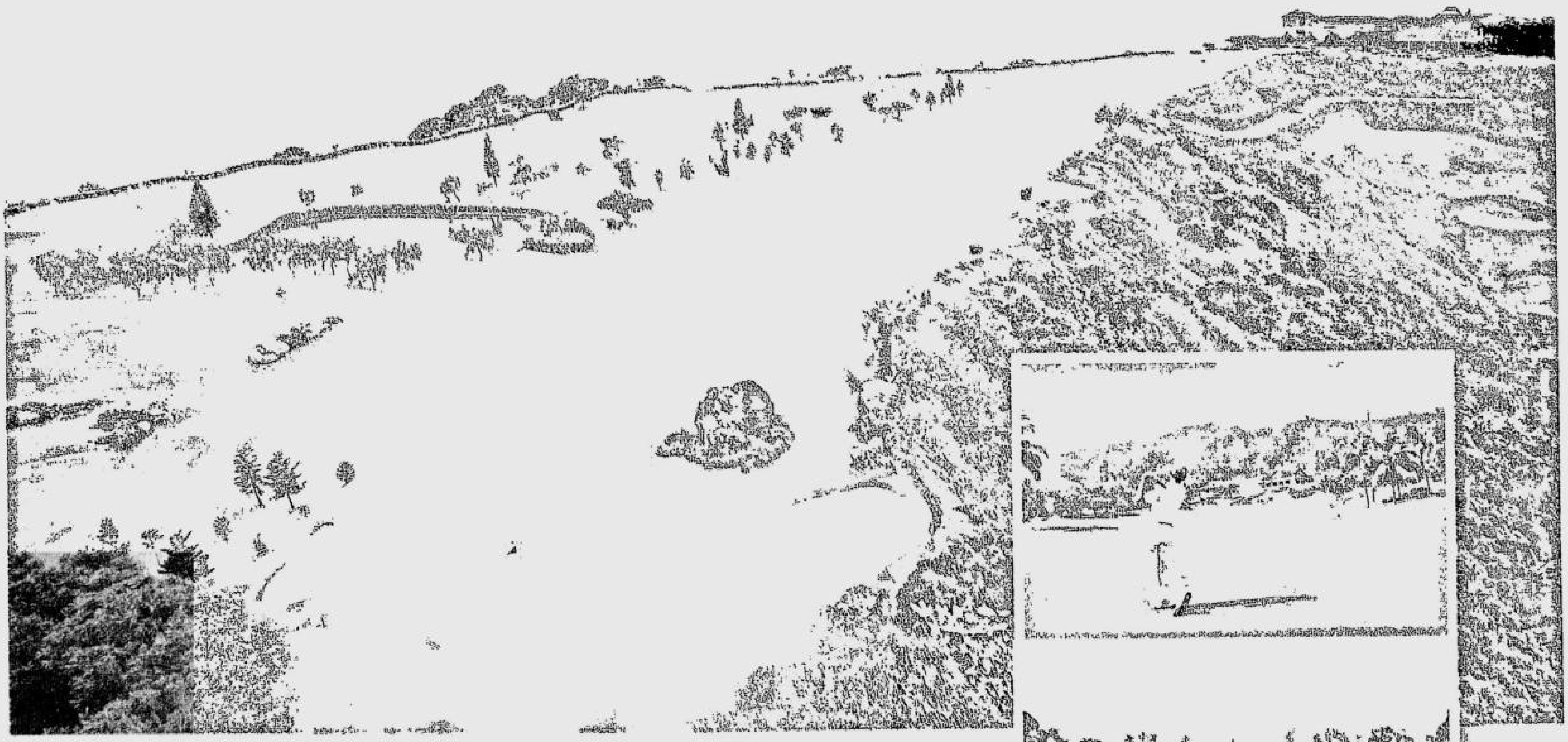
After your manicure or pedicure session in the salon or at home, clean your metal mani-pedi implements with Caronia Solvent.

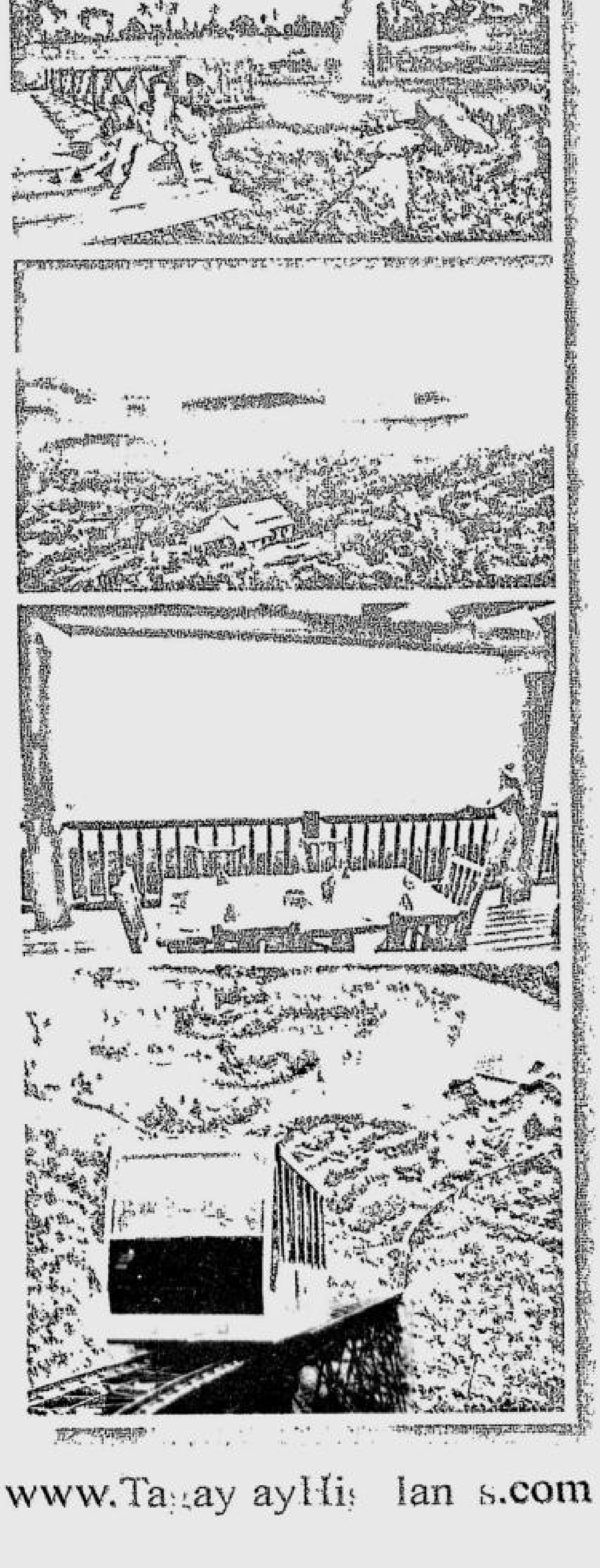
All formulas are BFAD-registered and come in a handy 15 ml bottle or a standard 30 ml size. Whether you're a nail care professional/manicurist or just a nail chick, these salon-quality products are easy to use.

Caronia's Pro-Care products are now available in Landmark, SM Department Stores, Robinson's Department Stores, Mercury Drug Store, Ever Department Stores, Shopwise, Cherry Foodarama, and other leading supermarkets, department & drug stores nationwide.

Way Up SOUTH!

Tagaytay Highlands





Just an hour south of Metro Manila, a unique kind of watchtower lords it over the scenic hills and ridges of Tagaytay.

The Tagaytay Highlands, a pioneer in leisure estate creation, affords vantage views all around, including the privileged panorama of Taal Lake and Volcano, as well as vistas of realty developments growing southwards from the metropolis.

Time and visionary effort have been invested in configuring this world-class complex that now serves as a beacon for lifestyle pursuits amidst prime recreational communities.

Tagaytay Highlands leads the way up south!

As the premier leisure haven with easy accessibility to and from Metro Manila, this pacesetting bastion of the high life continues to enhance its state-of-the-art, nature-hugging amenities, and to expand its tapestry of endless possibilities.

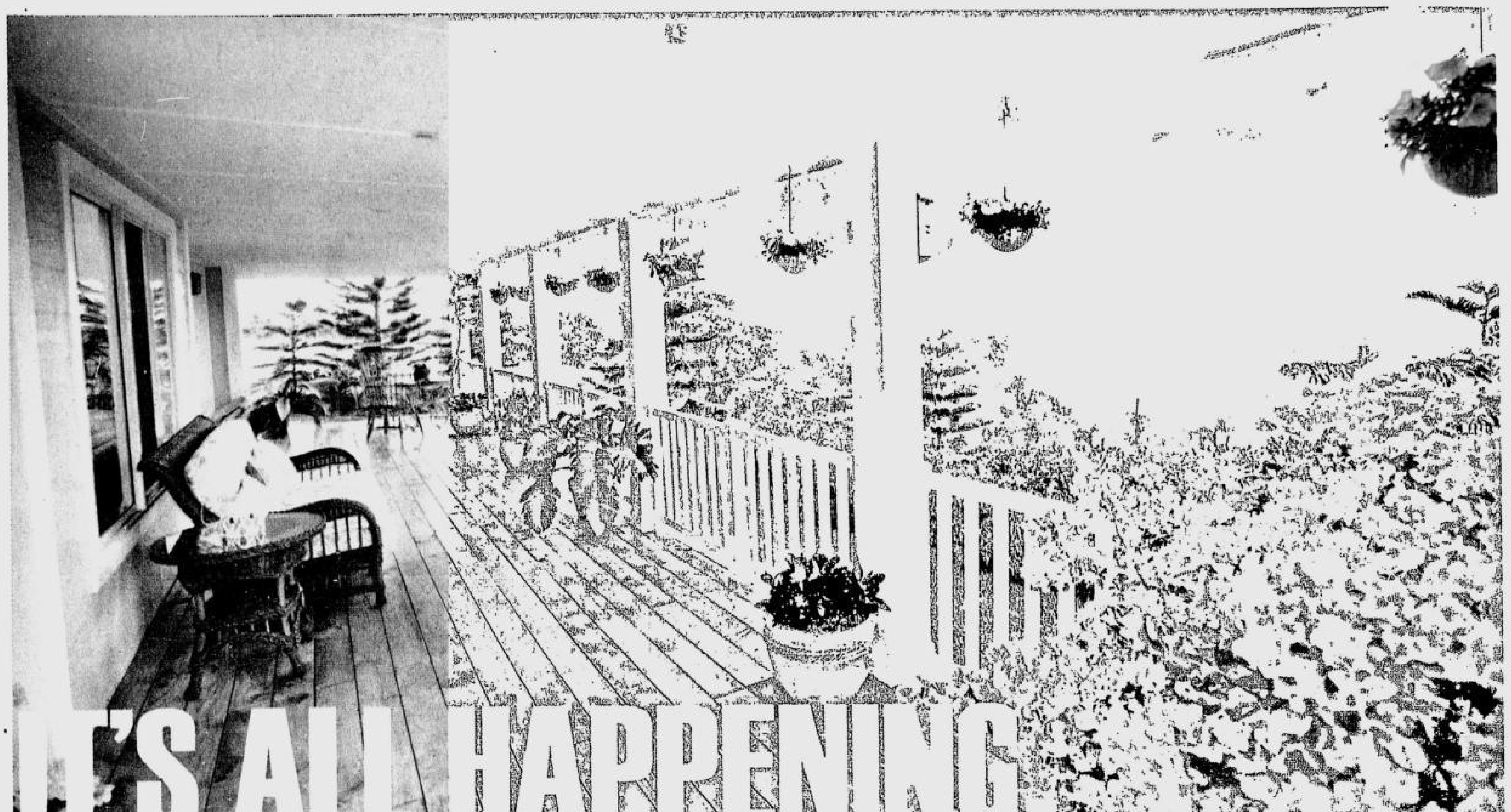
Now the stakes are raised once more for a new paradigm for private sanctuaries with the launching of yet another phase of development at The Greenlands.

Owner/Developer

BELLE
CORPORATION

(046)483-0824; (02)687-2885
(0917)524-9090

www.TagaytayHighlands.com



IT'S ALL HAPPENING WAY UP SOUTH!

The Verandas
at Saratoga Hills

It's the American South with its laidback grandeur that is evoked and recreated at The Verandas.

A genteel world of leisurely rhythms, allowing unhurried time to pass by … while you're ensconced in a lovely home

as comfort zone. And partake of the slow, graceful delights of Nature all around.

Imagine yourself seated on a rocking chair in your own corner of a wrap-around porch or terrace, enjoying the bracing lake breeze while facing a mountainside.

You indulge in the privilege of watching the grass grow, the flowers bloom to hours of splendor, the trees rise as vine-strewn sentinels … while the rest of the contoured landscape spell your affinity with an idyllic environment.

The Verandas at The Greenlands offers the gentle cadence of leisure living.

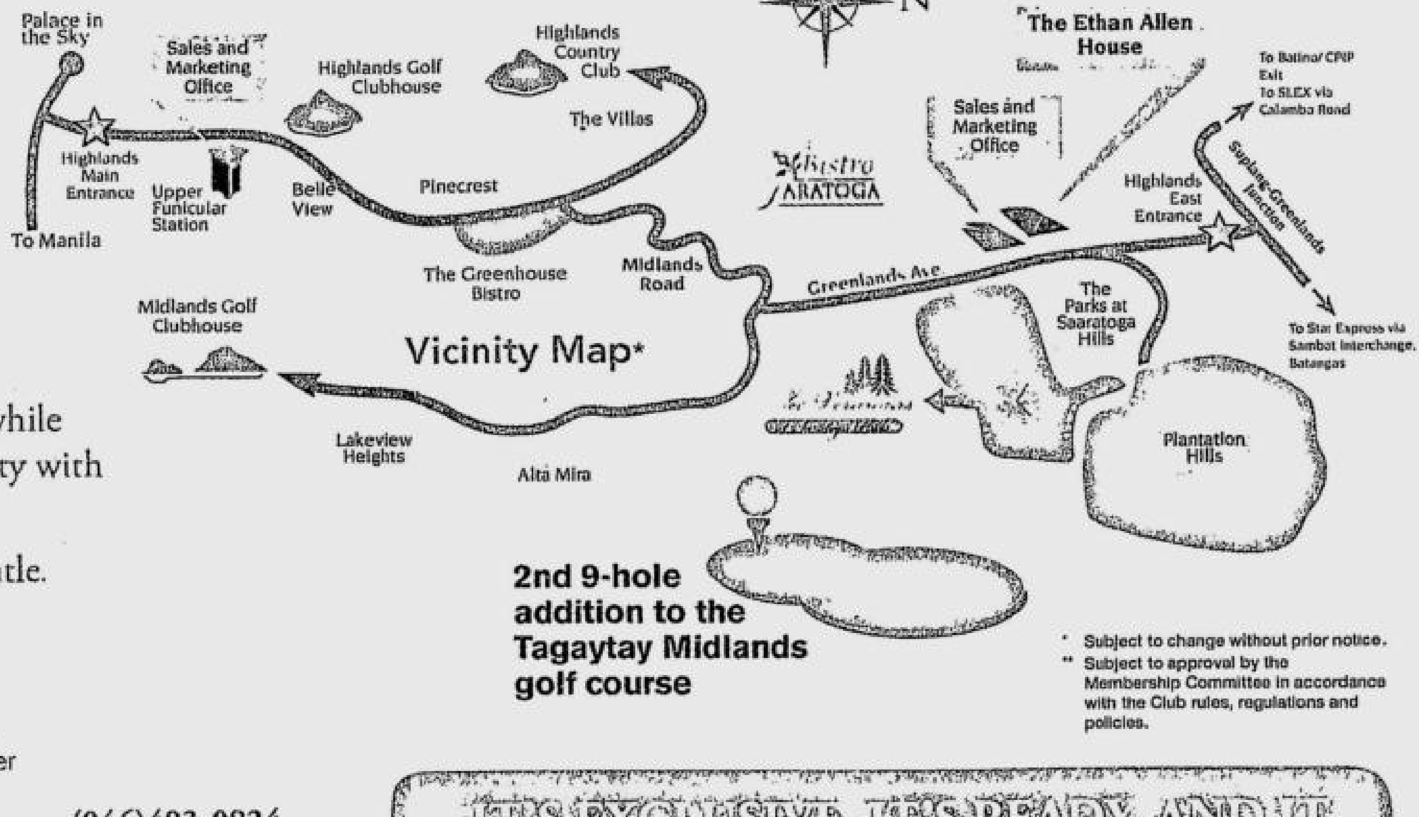
Acquiring a home in The Verandas allows easy access to the two championship courses in Tagaytay Highlands and The Midlands. Both are playable by Highlands and Midlands golf club members, so that the reciprocity allows enjoyment of 36 holes of golf.

The upcoming Lakeside Course will start with a 9-hole addition adjacent to the Midlands golf course. A second 9-hole addition will be situated a stone's throw from The Verandas.

This is a welcome feature for homeowners in The Greenlands Community, where utmost care for Nature is always given premium priority.

The luxury of playing any of the three courses — for a total of 54 holes of golf — is but part of the bounty of a recreational lifestyle in a prime leisure environment.

All over the Tagaytay Highlands complex that includes The Midlands and The Greenlands, world-class facilities and amenities are continuously upgraded, while more family-oriented and eco-friendly activities are being organized.


N
Palace in the Sky
Sales and Marketing Office
Highlands Golf Clubhouse
Highlands Country Club
The Villas
Highlands Main Entrance
Upper Funicular Station
Belle View
Pinecrest
To Manila
The Greenhouse Bistro
Midlands Road
Midlands Golf Clubhouse
Vicinity Map*
Lakeview Heights
Alta Mira
The Ethan Allen House
Sales and Marketing Office
Bistro Saratoga
Highlands East Entrance
To Batino/ CPIP Exit
To SLEX via Calamba Road
Suplang-Greenlands Junction
Greenlands Ave.
The Parks at Saaratoga Hills
The Verandas
To Star Express via Sambat Interchange, Batangas
Plantation Hills
2nd 9-hole addition to the Tagaytay Midlands golf course

* Subject to change without prior notice.
** Subject to approval by the Membership Committee in accordance with the Club rules, regulations and policies.

Tagaytay Highlands

Owner/Developer
BELLE
CORPORATION

(046)483-0824
(02)687-2885
(0917)524-9090

www.TagaytayHighlands.com

IT'S EXCLUSIVE, IT'S READY, AND IT COMES WITH A FREE GOLF SHARE!**

Reserving a lot in the exclusive community of The Verandas entitles you to a proprietary share in Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club, at no extra cost.

Take advantage of easy payment plans now while lots are still available.

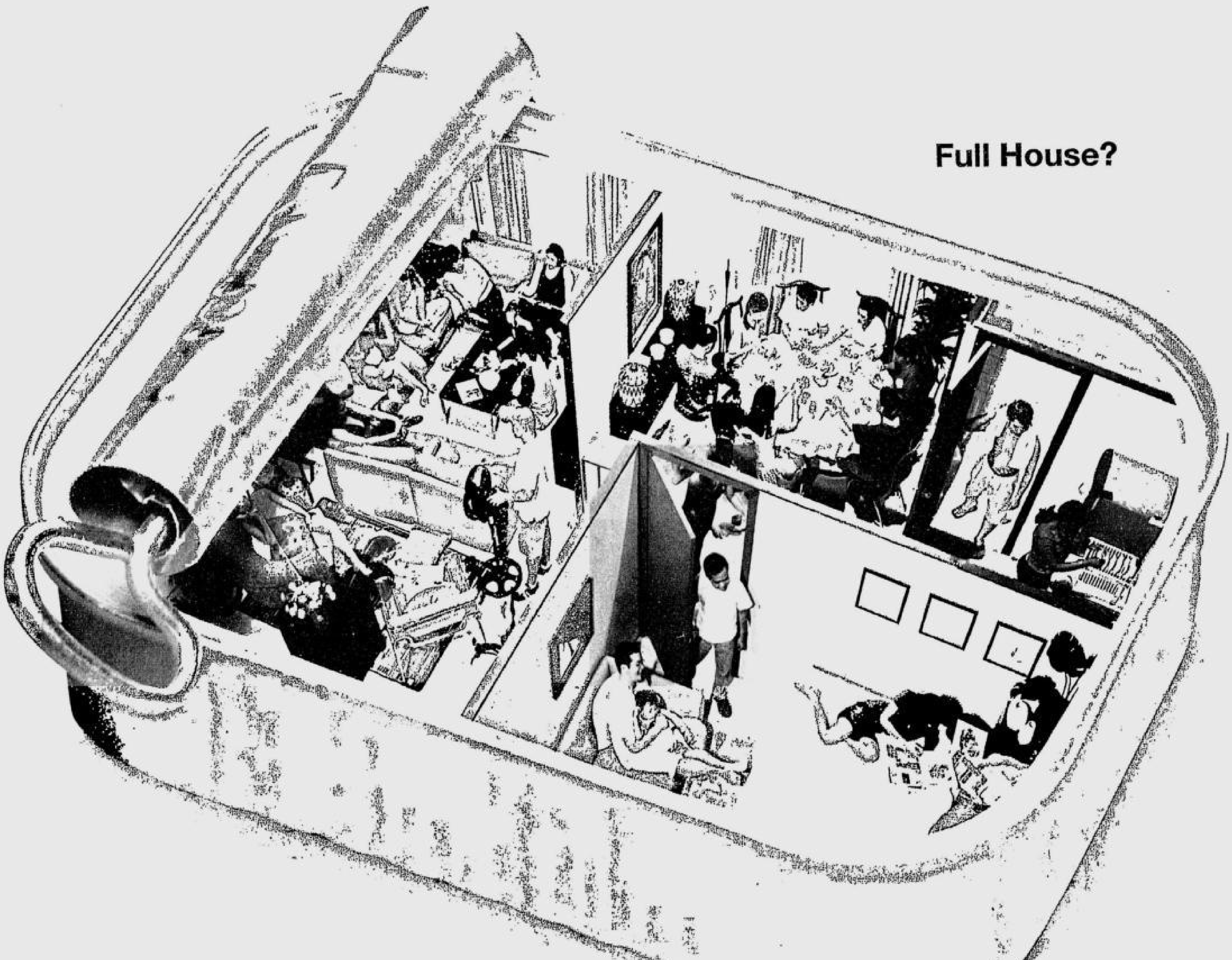
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

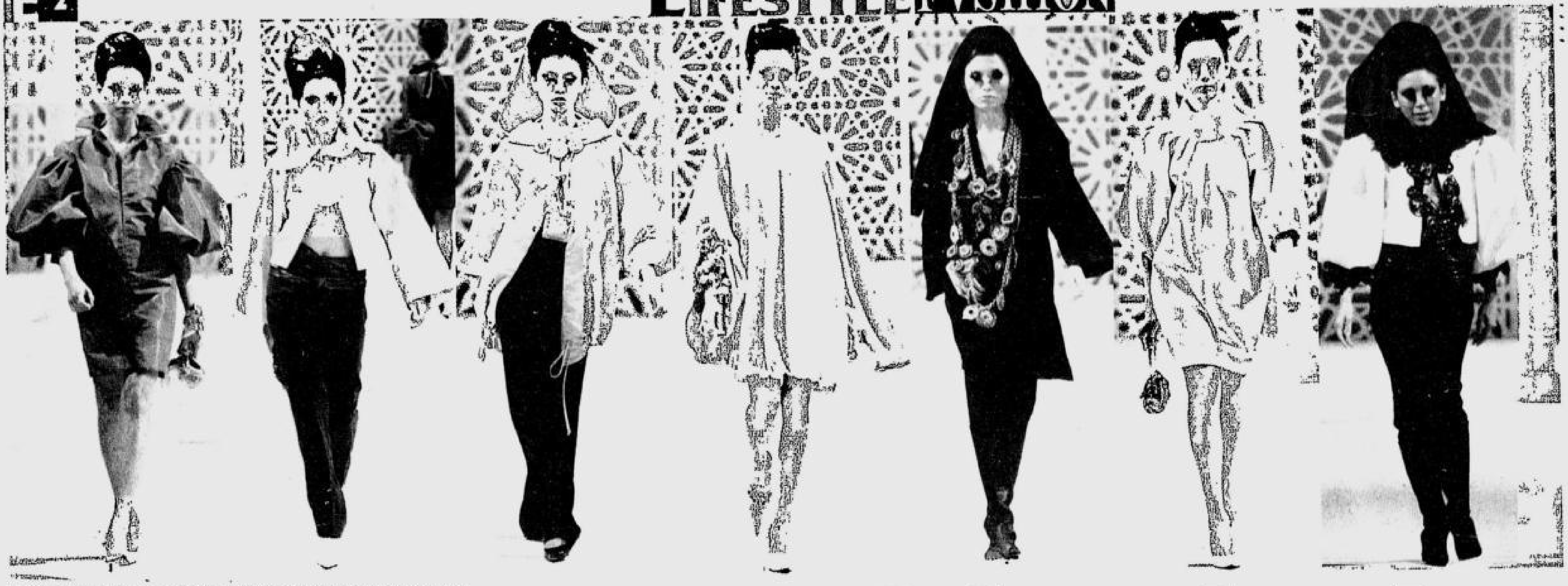
FASHION

Spanish splendor

story on page E2

Full House?

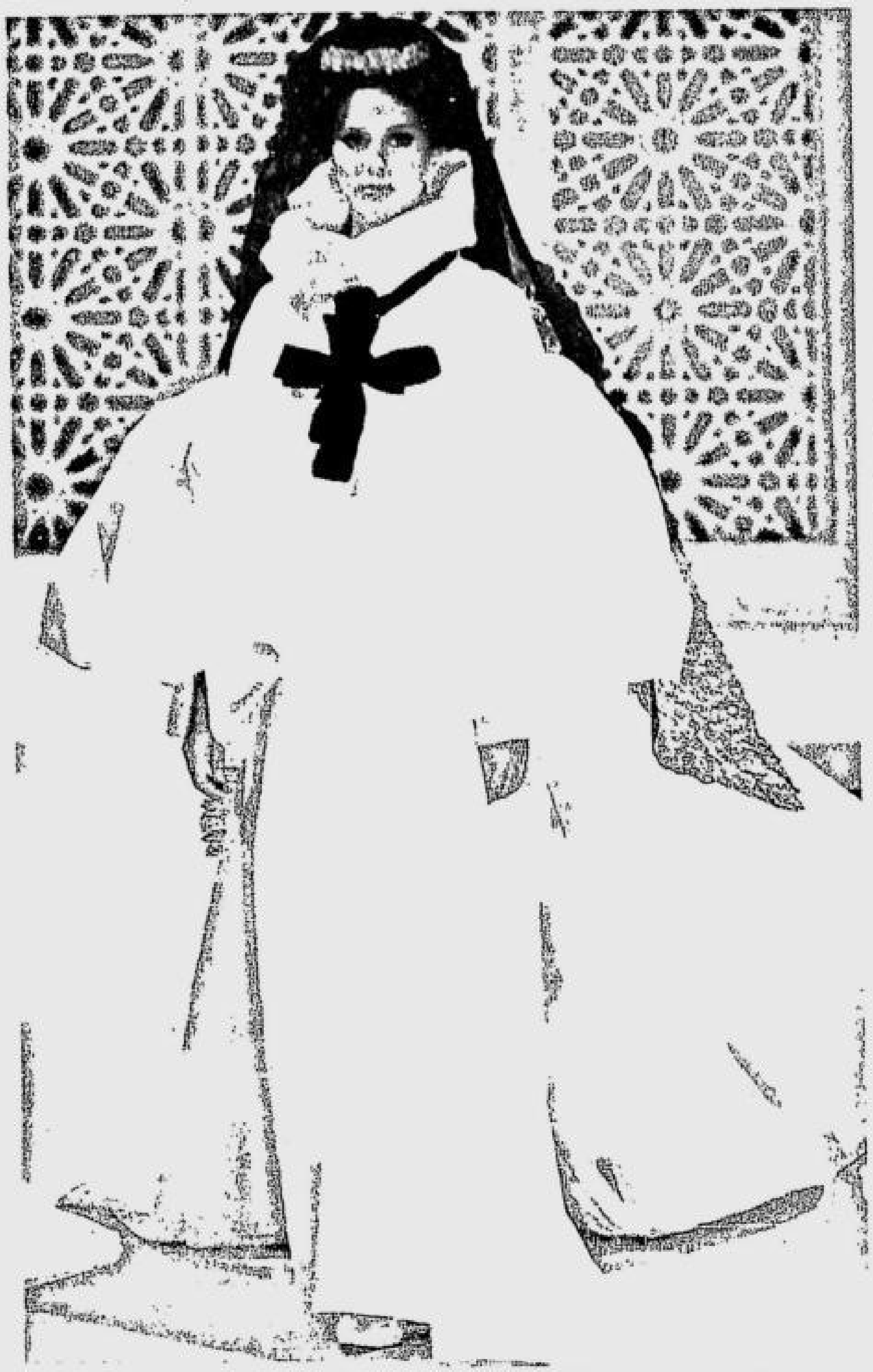




LUXURIOUS daywear in silk, taffeta, chiffon and four ply crepe

Spanish splendor

"Alhambra," Inno Sotto's latest fashion extravaganza, referenced El Greco, the Castillian court, Franciscan robes and other staples of Iberian culture

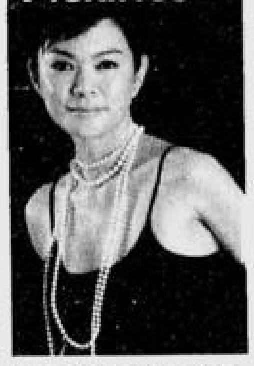


SILK taffeta wedding gown inspired by the robes of Augustinian monks

STANDING ovation for Inno Sotto and Bea Valdes

Photos by Chito Vecina

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

AFTER 27 PROLIFIC YEARS in the fashion industry, Inno Sotto remains at the top of his game. Together with world-renowned accessories designer Bea Valdes, the prince (although this author would like to crown him king) of Philippine fashion recently presented Alhambra, a show that featured a 59-piece collection that combined the designer's trademark elegance and exquisite detailing with mystery, romance and Old-World glamour.

The much-awaited show, which was held at the ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La, opened with a short spiel by socialite Isabel Preysler. The Madrid-based beauty, the former wife of Julio and mother of Enrique Iglesias, has known Sotto for 20 years. She flew in to watch the show and laud the designer for his "Filipino ingenuity."

This was then followed by an even shorter speech by the usually publicity-shy designer. "I'm dying a thousand deaths," he said. Obviously on edge, as most designers are before a show, Sotto thanked everyone, including event host Mrs. Imelda Cojuangco, for the support they've shown him and the Virlanie Foundation, a charity he has supported for many years.

Sotto then invited everyone to join him and Valdes on their journey to Alhambra.

Luxurious fabrics

Modern Moorish-inspired music and dramatic lighting against a backdrop that mimicked the graceful arabesques and intricate woodcarvings of the Alhambra signaled the start of the show. With bated breaths, the audience beheld model of the moment Mia Ayesa as she entered the stage clad in tight fitting trousers, boots and a cropped jacket with full sleeves, to open the day/lounge wear portion of the show.

Sotto's day pieces came in luxurious fabrics like silk, taffeta, chiffon and four ply crepe, with just the right touches of whimsy and wit in the form of poufs and puffs. Volume was a major characteristic of this particular collection. It was apparent in the dramatic jackets, sleeves and balloon dresses that came in a variety of hues inspired by spices sold in the markets, such as sage, curry and saffron.

Sotto also used a stunning bright orange that was a takeoff from, as he describes, "the sun in Spain when it hits the buildings at a particular time of day."

A very luxe sportswear feel was also evident in the form of loose silken parkas that looked comfortable yet ultra-chic. These pieces, which one can easily transform into a bubble dress or top, gave the collection a thoroughly modern edge. They only proved that Sotto, although known for his elegantly feminine pieces, continues to evolve and thus surpass his previous output.

"I was inspired by the juxtaposition of the Roman Catholic religion and Islamic culture in Alhambra," says Sotto. He also made references to paintings by El Greco, the Spanish court and Franciscan robes. His bridal gown, worn by stunning Brazilian model Carolina, was, in fact, fashioned after the robes of Augustinian monks.

The designer made use of 37 yards of silk taffeta to create the high-necked, full-sleeved wedding gown. The delicately beautiful black Chantilly lace that adorned the model's head was a delicate contrast to the gown's voluminous splendor.

Sight to behold

The evening collection was also a sight to behold. Jaded fashionistas and Manila's who's who craned their necks to get better views of their must-have pieces. The clear winners were a series of black crepe and crepe de chine gowns that were subtly sexy and incredibly stunning in their sheer simplicity.

Again, volume was the general order of the day, or night, for that matter, as models walked down the runway in folds upon folds of rich materials that were sometimes accented with feathers. The last piece, a white, feathered silk taffeta gown with bubble sleeves and a high neck, worn by Ria Bolivar, was a showstopper and the perfect high note to end the presentation.

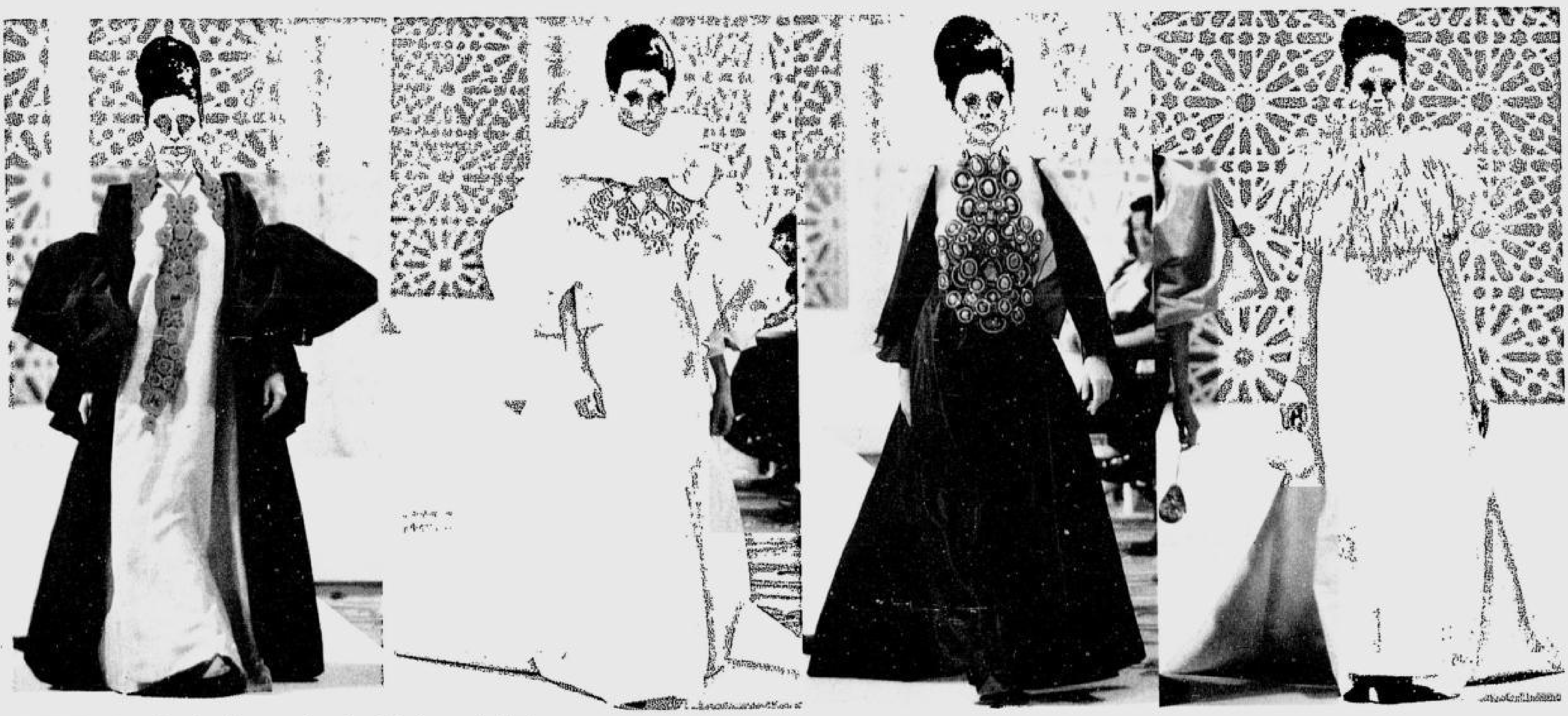
Throughout the show, Bea Valdes' exquisite adornments complemented Sotto's collection. Valdes' jewelry and bags, which are available in specialty stores like Barneys New York and Harvey Nichols in Hong Kong, are all treasures that can transform and add unabashed style to a look. Her pieces were nothing short of breathtaking and magical, fresh and with delicious hints of the exotic.

Director Ariel Lozada created a mood of mystery and drama through music and lighting, while Patrick Rosas and his team created a high-fashion look that featured three layers of extra-long false eyelashes.

As the sartorial feast drew to a close, Sotto received yet another well-deserved standing ovation. Most industry denizens present during the show came to the same conclusion. There really is nothing quite like an Inno Sotto show. No wonder he's still at the top of the heap.

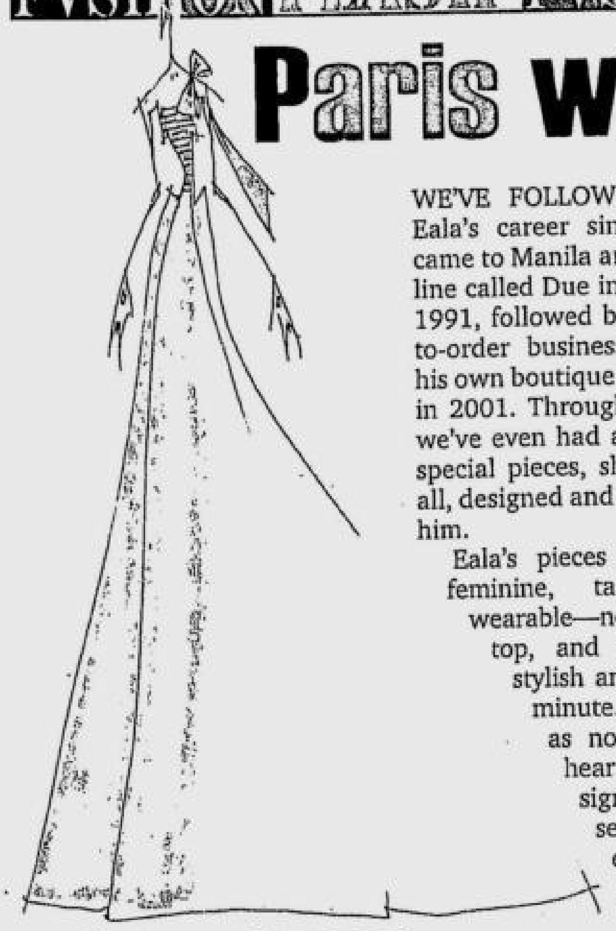
E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

**Alhambra was presented by Novare, Globe Asiatic, Rustan's, Nokia;
in cooperation with
Philippine Tatler, Belo Medical Group, Bergmann, Pond's, QTV, Moet & Chandon, Thai, Petron;and Mercedes Benz, Vivian Sarabia, San Miguel
Flowers by Fiori de M(Gaita Fores)
Makeup by Patrick Rosas
Directed by Ariel Lozada
Produced by Joji Dingcong and McC Cuan
Creative direction by Sofia Elizalde**



VOLUME and exquisite detailing were the order of the day—and night!

Paris when it sizzles



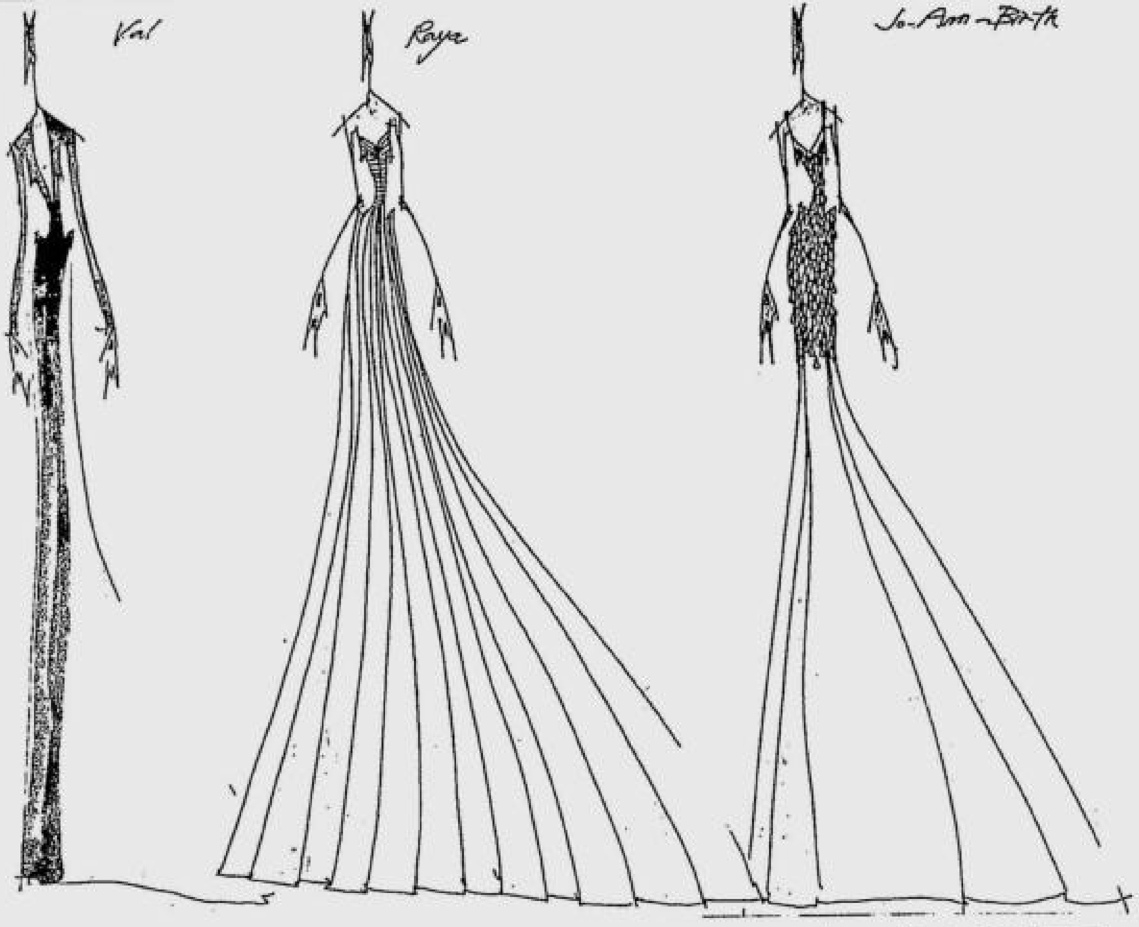
WE'VE FOLLOWED RHETT Eala's career since he first came to Manila and opened a line called Due in Rustan's in 1991, followed by his made-to-order business and then his own boutique called Wink in 2001. Through the years, we've even had a number of special pieces, showstoppers all, designed and executed by him.

Eala's pieces are always feminine, tasteful and wearable—never over the top, and yet, always stylish and up-to-the-minute. So, it came as no surprise to hear that the designer was chosen by Jewelmer to present a collection that would complement their jewelry line during the Golden Philippine South Sea Pearl Gala Night at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, Nov. 7.

Eala's collection for this milestone event is inspired by the four elements of nature: fire, wind, water and earth. As such, he has created pieces in jersey, chiffon and tulle in blues, oranges, whites and browns. To highlight Jewelmer's lustrous pearls, the designer has wisely decided to forego beadwork. Instead, he's using pleats and lace to create details and depth.

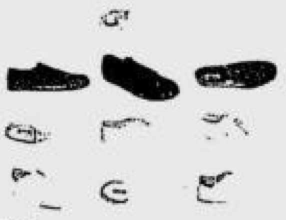
The fashion and jewelry show will be directed by Robby Carmona and will feature top Filipina models like Girlie Benitez, Raya Mananquil, Valerie de los Santos, Isabel Roces.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RHETT EALA



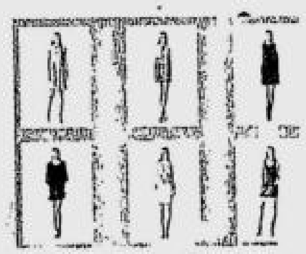
EROTOKRITOS

GASPARD Yurkievich



S*R**

OPENING Ceremony



SEE by Chloe

KARINE Arabian

b

Connect the dots

IF YOU'RE SHOPPING AROUND for brands, clothing and accessories that are not totally mainstream but are completely stylish and fashionable, we've got good news for you. Dotdotdot, a multibrand store that offers unique finds, is opening in Greenbelt 5 early this month.

According to Carlo Rufino, the creative mind behind the store, the aim is to look out for unusual brands that can be made accessible to more people. As such, dotdotdot will be carrying brands like Karine Arabian, Erotokritos, Opening Ceremony, S***R, Whyred, Gaspard Yurkievich, b and Eley Kishimoto. Fans of Alexander McQueen and Chloe can also look forward to pieces from both brands' bridge lines, McQ and See by Chloe, respectively.

"The store is inspired by nature. It will be a peaceful shopping environment with no loud music and lots of little nooks where shoppers just might chance upon something they'll really love," says Rufino.

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

You go, Girlie!

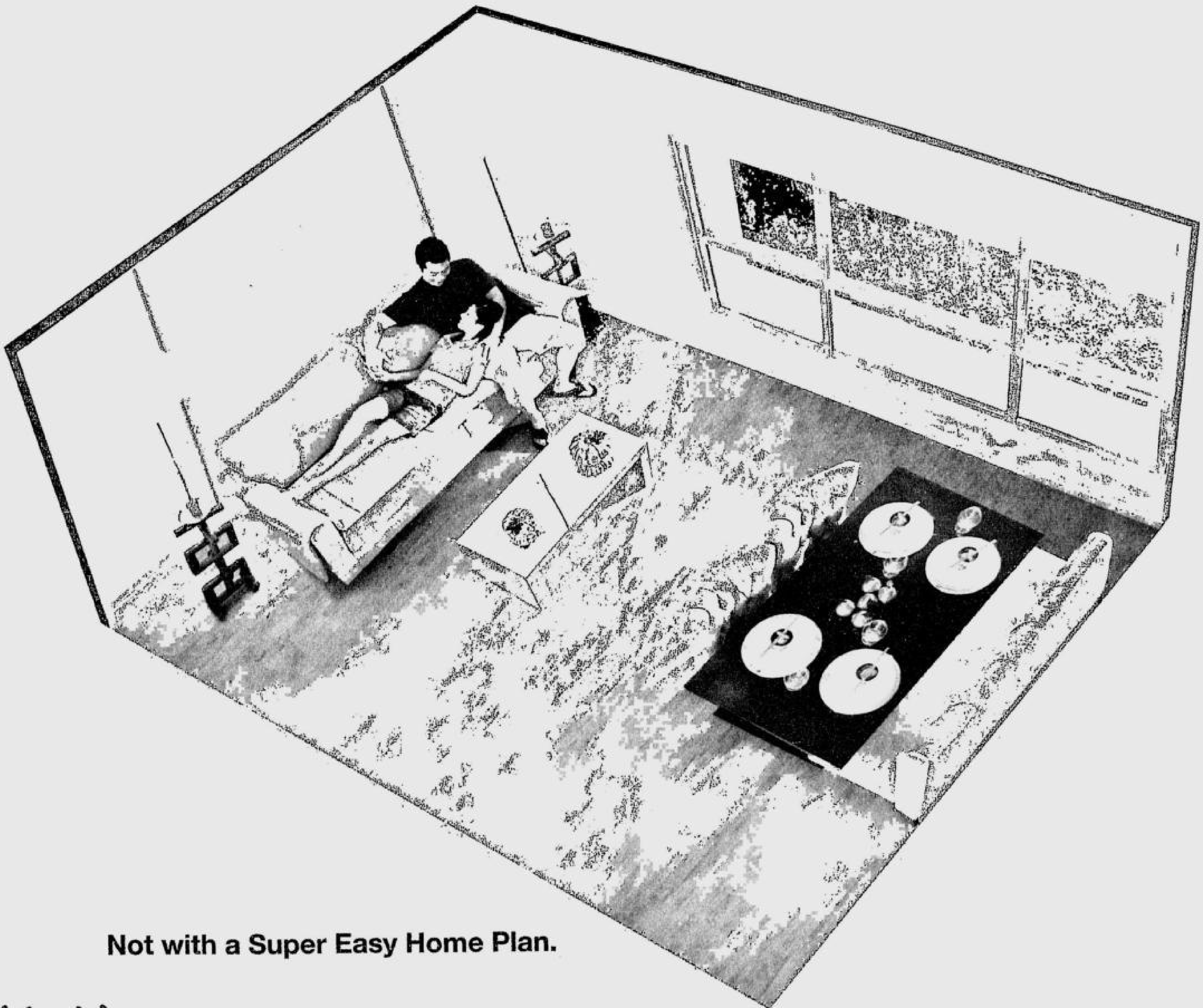
MODEL GIRLIE BENitez makes it to thesartorialist.blogspot.com, a site that's very popular among fashionphiles and that features stylishly dressed people from all over the globe.

The PMAP member and INQUIRER Fashion favorite was in Central, Hong Kong when Lane Crawford senior public relations executive Cher Kwong, accompanied by the sartorialist himself, Scott Schuman, asked to take her photograph because they found what she was wearing interesting.

In his blog, the sartorialist says, "I love how the bag really brings a lot of color to this look."

MODEL Girlie Benitez in Hong Kong

PHOTO FROM THESARTORIALIST.BLOGSPOT.COM.



Not with a Super Easy Home Plan.

SUPER easy home

You can own and move into your new home in just 15 months for as low as P13,800 per month. Just apply for a Super Easy Home Plan exclusively offered by Robinsons Land in partnership with BPI Family Savings Bank. Please contact (02) 636-0888 or (0922) 838-0888 or log on to www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph for more information.

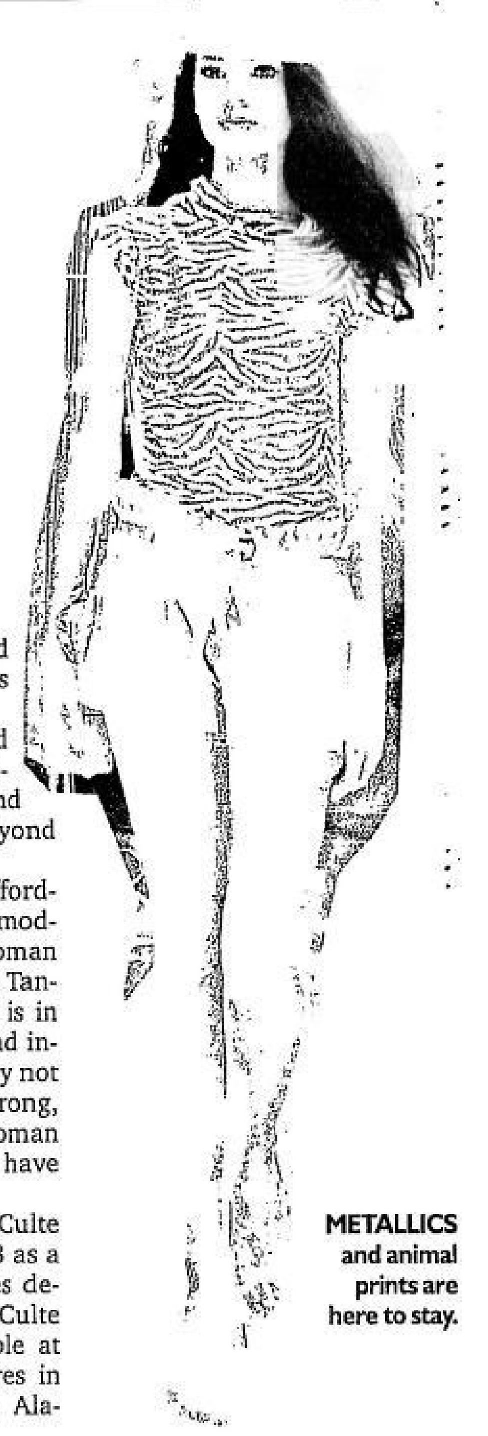
ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
The Property Developer of Choice

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

runway report runway report runway report runway report runway report runway report runway report

Culte Femme's new line is inspired by the Duchess of Windsor and Michelle Pfeiffer

LUXURIOUS fabrics in muted tones for a light and airy feel



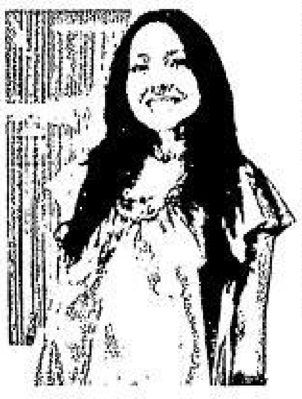
METALLICS and animal prints are here to stay.

Dressy but subdued

Text by Mary Ann I. Rañola
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

LOOKING ALTOGETHER SULTRY, elegant and in-season may be quite a feat even for the dedicated fashionista. Blending sophistication and sex appeal well becomes effortless only when she knows where to shop.

Culte Femme is known for its strong sense of feminine style—be it glamorous, bohemian or preppy—with a lot of whimsical colors and prints. The Holiday 2007 Collection, unveiled on Oct. 25 in Rustan's Makati, is its first take on using dressy, luxurious fabrics in a muted palette, still conveying sexy and femininity albeit in a low-key manner.



HINDY Weber-Tantoco

Designer Hindy Weber-Tantoco personally chose the fabrics used to achieve a light and airy feel, making it wearable, even post-holidays until the start of summer.

"I wanted an understated and fluid feel to it. Nothing too strong and no hard lines. So I used voile, a very fine kind of cotton, chiffon, silk charmeuse, silk jersey and satinized twill, which is a smoother kind of twill," Tantoco said.

Black and gray are not the only colors of choice this season. Completely doing away with dark neutrals, the collection worked on subdued but playful colors, such as pink champagne, ivory, slate gray and chartreuse.

For the new collection, Tantoco drew inspiration from two fashion icons: the elegance of the Duchess of Windsor and the disco-diva style of Michelle Pfeiffer in her 20s (think "Scarface"). "I wanted something that is elegant but not too proper for the modern-day woman, and sexy but not overtly sexy," said the designer.

Tantoco incorporated the polished and chic look into the collection by designing clothes that would create a silhouette of strong shoulders and nipped waists. The general idea is volume on sleeves and legs. Big sleeves—long, puff, tiered and ruffled; cinched and belted waists; and wide-leg trousers were key elements.

The clothes were big on details such as corded scallops, ruffles, pleats, ribbons, buttons. The models in the fashion show also donned gloves and straw hats to complete the "Duchess look."

Modern touch

To add a modern touch to the seeming comeback of the '40s, the clothes and accessories were accented with animal prints and metallic silver. High-waisted, hip-hugging and slim-fitting skirts and jeans gave the requisite oomph.

Prices of tops, shorts and trousers range from P800-P2,000, while skirts and dresses don't go beyond P3,000.

The new collection is affordable and wearable by the modern Filipina, the kind of woman her label tries to represent, Tantoco said. "A woman who is in touch with her strength and individuality, and is definitely not a cookie-cutter. She's strong, but not too serious… A woman who likes to enjoy and have fun."

Tantoco established Culte Femme in November 2003 as a private label for the ladies department of Rustan's. Culte Femme stores are available at Rustan's Department Stores in Makati, Shangri-La Edsa, Alabang and Cebu.

One-stop travel shop

THE TRAVEL CLUB RECENTLY marked the opening of its flagship store in TriNoma with Primer Group of Companies' president and CEO Jimmy Thai in attendance.

The event drew a crowd composed of Manila's top fashion and business personalities. Also in attendance were The Travel Club spokespersons, PDI columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes, motivational speaker Francis Kong, fashion designer Randy Ortiz, and dynamic couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez.

PDI'S Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Primer Group of Companies president and CEO Jimmy Thai

The night's main event began with the unveiling of the store windows featuring some of the country's top models on mannequin duty. A fashion show showcasing the latest in travel bags, apparel and accessories followed.

The store, located on the second level of TriNoma, is a 600-sq m shopping space that houses a comprehensive collection of world-renowned brands such as Samsonite, Victorinox, The North Face, American Tourister, Columbia, Hegren, Eagle Creek and many more.

Today, with over 20 stores nationwide plus a few more to open in Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore, The Travel Club continues to deliver quality and cutting-edge travel solutions. Definitely, a one-stop shop to all your travel needs.

The Travel Club TriNoma houses a comprehensive collection of world-renowned brands such as Samsonite, Victorinox, The North Face, American Tourister, Columbia, Hegren, Eagle Creek and many more

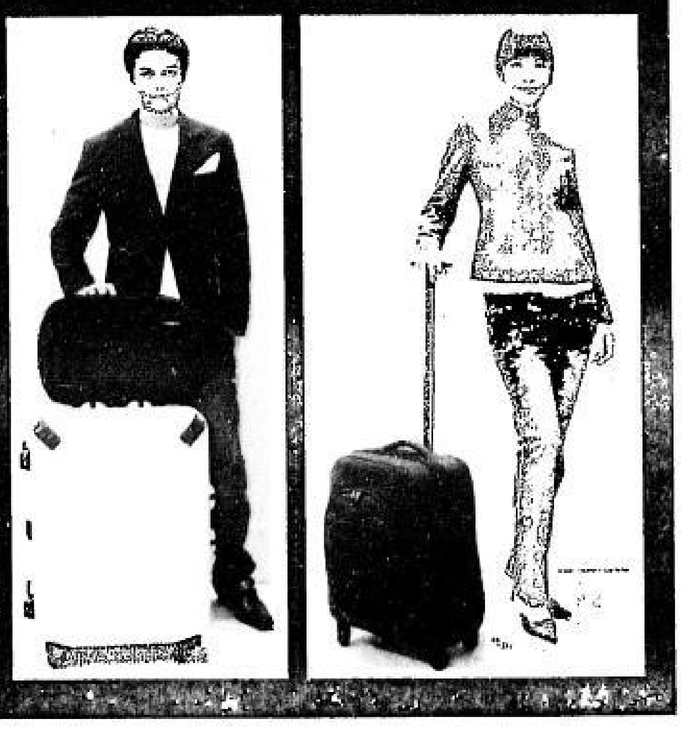


IMAGE model Anne Curtis

MEL Orlina's modern vintage collection

Oldies but cuties

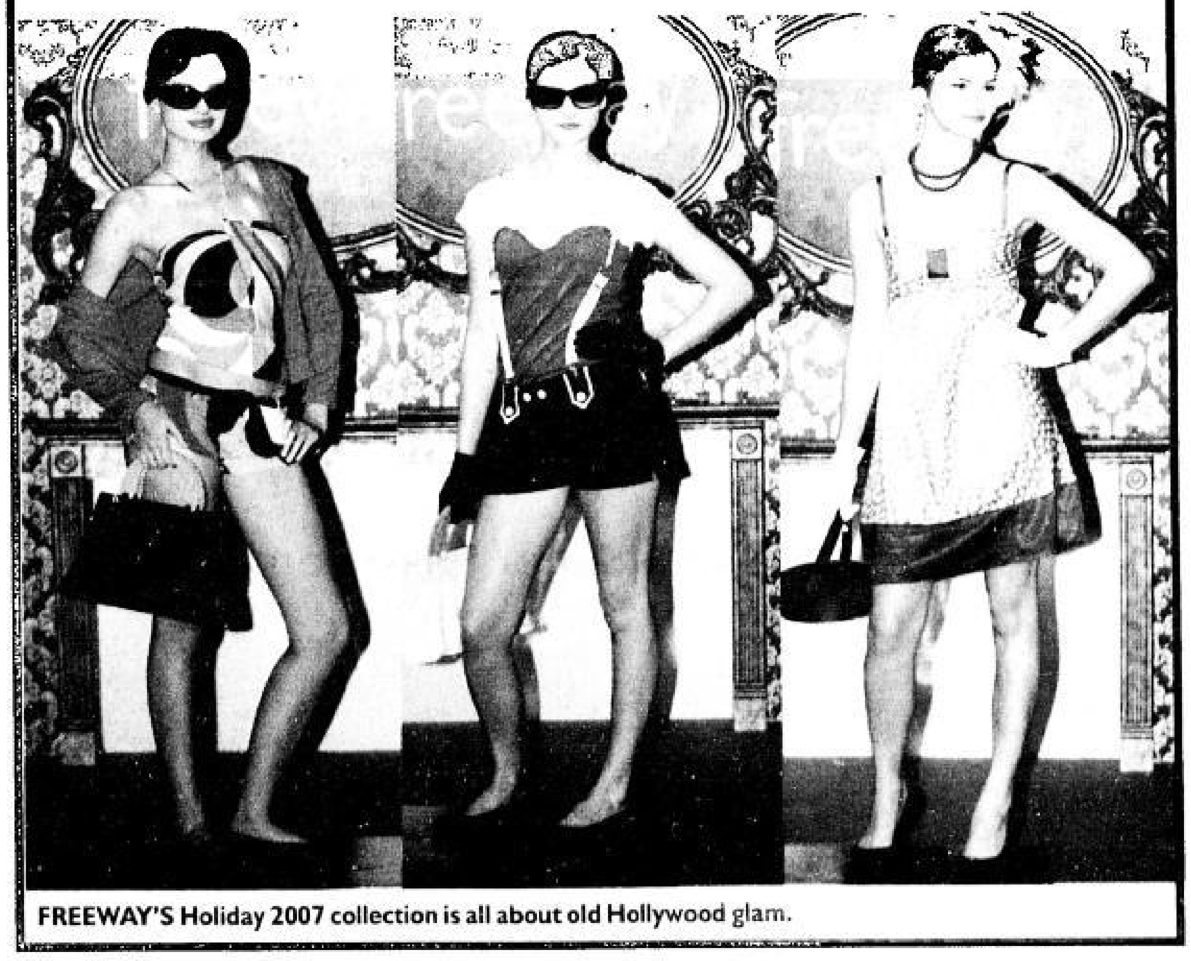
IT WAS A NIGHT OF GLITZ, glamour, and all that jazz. Mel Orlina treated guests to a spectacle of old Hollywood glam on the runway as it featured Freeway's Holiday Collection. The fashion show was a display of everything vintage, whimsical and avant-garde.

Embassy Super Club was transformed into a 1920s French-inspired atelier. Brocade walls stood against the angular catwalk. Two embossed box doors beside the digital fireplace served as entrance and exit for the fashion show.

Models were made up into beautiful 1920s glamour girls. The collection featured clothes that used pleating and ruching rendered in a more casual manner.

Orlina used holiday colors of pomegranate red, young grape, emerald green and sea teal, with touches of black, white and gray, for this collection. To match the vibrant hues, he used a variety of intricate fabrics to create structured smart pieces, soft flowy drapes, practical and comfy stretch jerseys, firm satinized twills, even a luxurious gem-colored satin charmeuse.

Freeway endorser Anne Curtis then appeared from behind an intricate opening door wearing a white mini dress with elaborate ruffles. She was the perfect sight to cap an elegant, elegant night.



FREEWAY'S Holiday 2007 collection is all about old Hollywood glam.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.co

BOOKS

REGINE TOLENTINO

I FIRST LEARNED ABOUT the book "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne while watching an episode of "Oprah." Then, on the set of "Shall We Dance," I found myself discussing the book with [fellow judges] Audie Gemora and Douglas Nierras. Turned out that Direk Audie had already read the book and he encouraged me to get a copy. It's really inspiring. I am fascinated by the Law of Attraction, that light attracts light. It has changed my outlook in life and made me a better person—as a whole. Now, I also try to extend the same positive energy to other people. I definitely recommend it. It's easy to read and very clear since it has bullet points and great quotes from different leaders. I always go back to the pages that I find moving.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

FAVORITE NOOKS

LOUIE HEREDIA

I USUALLY UNWIND IN the garden of my parents' home in Quezon City. At dusk, I sit and drink light beer here. This is also where I read the newspaper in the morning. I like it because it's relaxing and, at the same time, I enjoy gardening. I was the one who spruced up this place and I didn't spend a single centavo. I just used whatever décor was available and artfully arranged the rocks. There's a soothing fountain here and it also affords a view of San Mateo and the Montalban mountains. Plus, it's windy here. Now, my family holds our Sunday get-togethers in the garden.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

TAIL TALES

MEDWIN MARFIL

MY PET COCO, a half-breed tabby, is a year old. He reminds me of Garfield—he's mischievous, sedentary and has loads of attitude! But unlike the cartoon character, Coco doesn't like lasagna and is actually very sweet. He often sleeps beside me. My three-year-old Jack Russell terrier named Theodore is a lot like Garfield's buddy Odie. Although he's a loud yappy dog, he's very smart. To show their happiness, Coco goes on kitty frenzies and Theodore zips back and forth across the room. Coco and Theodore are so loved by the entire household and in return they love us back.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

jePun Pali
INSPIRED BY RELAKSASI

SERVICES OFFERED
BODY SCRUB & WRAP RITUALS • BODY MASSAGE & SCRUB • HERBAL STEAM BATH
TRADITIONAL HOLISTIC THERAPIES • CONTEMPORARY HOLISTIC THERAPIES • PREGNANCY MASSAGE
INFANT MASSAGE • FACIAL • FOOT MASSAGE • HAND PAMPERING • HILOT

SM MALL OF ASIA G / F SOUTH WING • Tel No.: 556-2315

'Bond' Roger Moore honored for helping children

STARS FOR OTHERS

ROGER Moore and wife Kristina Tholstrup distribute gifts to children at the Real Pearl day nursery in Budapest, Hungary. AP

UNITED NATIONS—BRITISH actor Roger Moore, famed for his portrayal of master spy James Bond, was honored Thursday for playing a different role—helping children for more than a decade as goodwill ambassador for the UN children's agency.

Moore received the Dag Hammarskjold Inspiration Award, named after the UN second secretary-general who was one of the most esteemed civil servants of the 20th century, from The Dag Hammarskjold Scholarship Fund for Journalists which was established for UN-based correspondents.

Moore, celebrating his 80th birthday this month, said he became a Unicef goodwill ambassador in 1991 after Audrey Hepburn, herself a goodwill ambassador, asked him to help at a Unicef event.

"I would like to tell journalists something very important to my heart. Young people are children. They are not young goats. And I don't like them being called kids. I think it is disrespectful to children. So please, in all your reports write children," he said. *AP*

ONLY SUN GROUP PLAN OFFERS...

✓3 CAMERA PHONES LINES ✓24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED* ✓750** FREE TEXTS TO OTHER NETWORKS

all for ₱999/month!

Nokia 2626
- Color display
- FM Radio
- GPRS, MMS, JAVA, WAP

Motorola W218
- VGA Camera
- FM Radio
- Calendar with date-book

Samsung X510
- VGA Camera
- Triband, Infrared
- GPRS, WAP

Sony Ericsson K320i
- VGA Camera, Triband
- MP3 Player
- GPRS, Bluetooth

Newest handset line-up!

- Only one person needs to subscribe to get all the lines.***
- Choose any three from these handsets: Nokia 2626, Motorola W218, Samsung X510, Sony Ericsson K320i

When applying for your postpaid line, simply bring a valid I.D. and the latest competitor bill equivalent to or of higher value than the plan being applied for.
If competitor bill is not available, bring proof of billing and proof of income.

* For local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only ** When enrolled in 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited *** 24-month holding period

Visit The Sun Shop and get a postpaid line now!

The Sun Shops : **Metro Manila** | TriNoma Mall | Greenhills Shopping Center | Shangri-la Plaza Mall | Robinsons Galleria | Robinsons Metroeast | Robinsons Pioneer | Burke Plaza | Robinsons Place Manila | SM Centerpoint | SM City Fairview | SM City Manila | SM City San Lazaro Park Square Makati | Festival Mall Filinvest | SM Bicutan | SM Mall of Asia | SM Megamall | SM Southmall | **North Luzon** | Robinsons Angeles | Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | SM Baguio | SM Clark | SM Marilao | SM North Edsa | SM Valenzuela **South Luzon** | Robinsons Place Dasmariñas | Robinsons Imus | Robinsons Lipa | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | SM Bacoor | SM Batangas | SM Lucena | SM Molino | **Visayas** | Ayala Center Cebu | Robinsons Place Bacolod | Robinsons Place Cebu Robinsons Place Iloilo | SM City Cebu | **Mindanao** | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro | SM City Davao

Hotline: 395-8000 www.suncellular.com.ph

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-9116

1 RENDITION • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 HALLOWEEN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 BALLS of FURY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 LUST CAUTION
12:05 3:20 6:35 9:50

5 HIDE and SEEK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 UNREST 1:00 3:15
STARDUST 4:55 7:35 10:00

8 MANILA PRIDE FEST
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

UNCUT VERSION
LUST CAUTION

Still
SHOWING
Robinsons Movieworld
galleria ermita
metro east pioneer

MTRCB Rating: R-18

LUST CAUTION

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 HIDE and SEEK 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:00 2:00 4:00
THE SEEKER: 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:30 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 RENDITION 11:10 1:25 3:40
UNREST 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 HALLOWEEN
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
10:50 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 HIDE and SEEK
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 HALLOWEEN
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 UNREST
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

6 BALLS of FURY
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:30 6:40 9:00

8 LUST CAUTION
11:40 2:40 5:40 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 HALLOWEEN
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 BALLS of FURY
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 HALLOWEEN
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:45

3 LUST CAUTION
1:40 4:55 8:20

4 BALLS of FURY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 HALLOWEEN
2 BRATZ
3 HIGHLANDER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA

Ticket Price: P 90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 STARDUST

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 BRATZ
2 HIGHLANDER
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 HALLOWEEN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HALLOWEEN
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 indieSine: TRIBU
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 STARDUST
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

Tribu
Bawal Pumasok

showing at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD

SM CINEMA

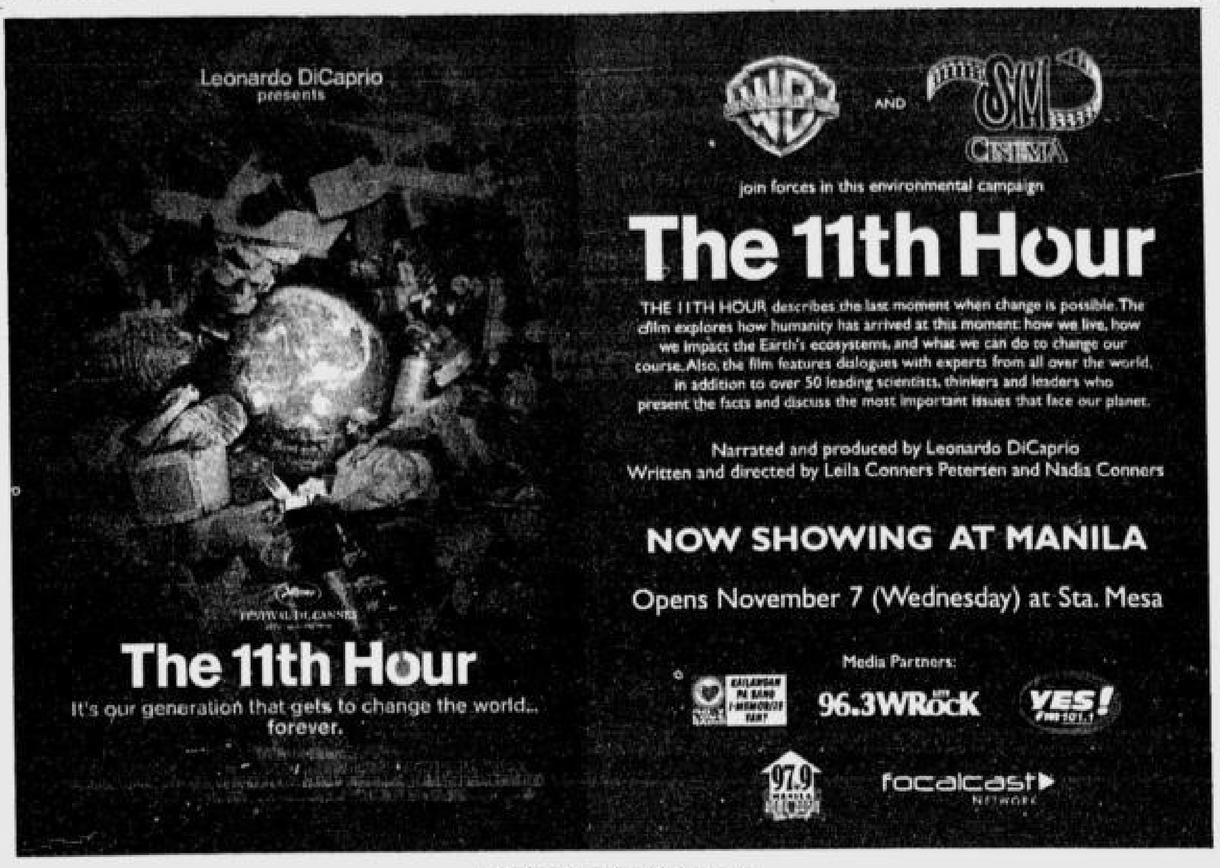
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME™

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS


Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.
AND
CINEMA
Media Partners:
96.3WRocK
YES! FM 101.1
97.9
focalcast NETWORK

join forces in this environmental campaign

The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

NOW SHOWING AT MANILA

Opens November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

San Miguel Coca-Cola IMAX

DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
12:30 PM • 2:00 PM • 6:30 PM • 8:00 PM
T-REX 3D Admission Price: P250
3:30 PM
SPACE STATION Admission Price: P200
5:00 PM

1 RENDITION
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 HALLOWEEN
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PREMIERE CINEMA
HIDE & SEEK
CENTERSTAGE
THE SEEKER:
THE DARK IS RISING
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
CINEMA 2
BALLS OF FURY
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 STARDUST
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RENDITION
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HALLOWEEN
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 BALLS OF FURY
9 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10 UNREST
11 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12 HIDE AND SEEK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 RENDITION
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 HALLOWEEN
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 STARDUST
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 HIDE AND SEEK
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 UNREST
12 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 HALLOWEEN
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 UNREST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 BALLS OF FURY
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
12 RENDITION

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 RENDITION
10 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 UNREST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 HALLOWEEN
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 30 DAYS OD NIGHT
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 HALLOWEEN
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 UNREST
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 RENDITION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 HALLOWEEN
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 UNREST
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 11TH HOUR
8 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 RENDITION
11 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
12 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 HALLOWEEN
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HIGHLANDER V

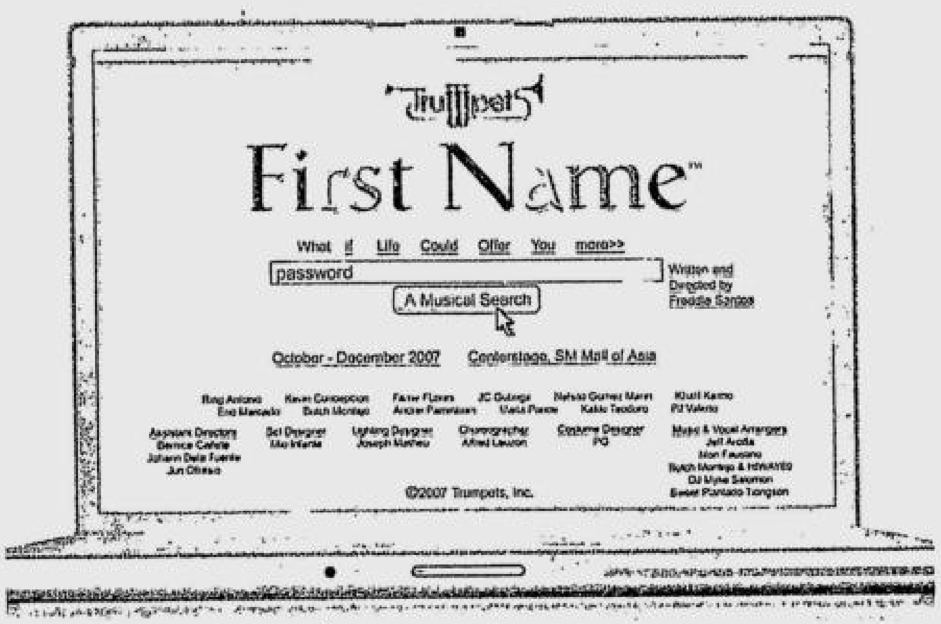
SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 RENDITION
2 HALLOWEEN
3 UNREST
4 HIDE AND SEEK

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 HALLOWEEN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 30 DAY OF NIGHT

SM CINEMA CENTERStage


Trumpets
First Name™
What if Life Could Offer You more>>
password
A Musical Search
Written and Directed by Freddie Santos
October - December 2007
Centerstage, SM Mall of Asia
©2007 Trumpets, Inc.

Tickets Available at: TRUMPETS OFFICE * 635-4478 / 631-7252 * trumpetsinc@gmail.com

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE SEEKER: HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HALLOWEEN
5 UNREST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 STARDUST
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 HALLOWEEN
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 HALLOWEEN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 HIGHLANDER V
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 BRATZ
6 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
7 **RESERVED**
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 STARDUST
2 HALLOWEEN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 BRATZ/ OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ DECEMBER BOYS
4 HIDE AND SEEK

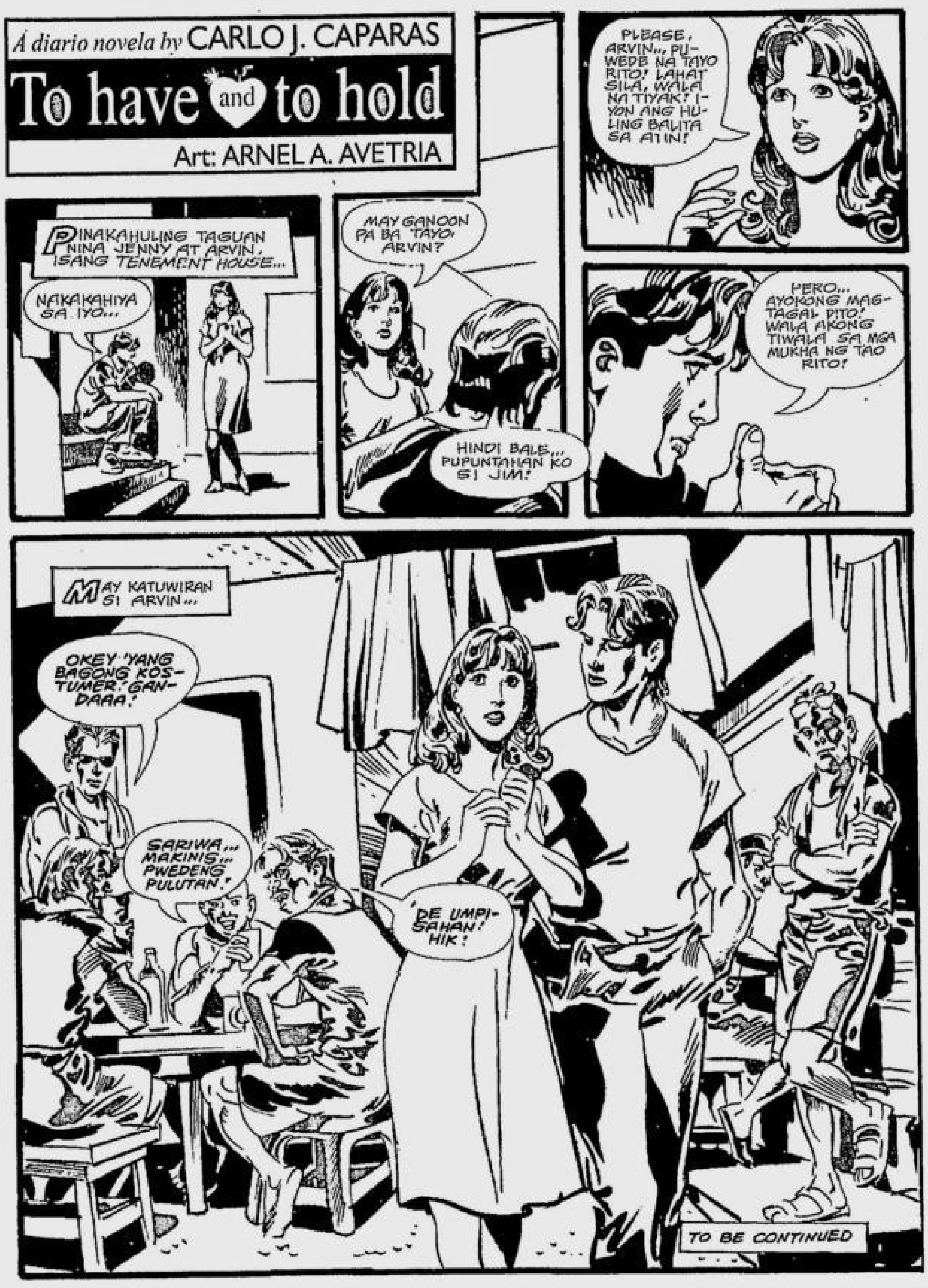
SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

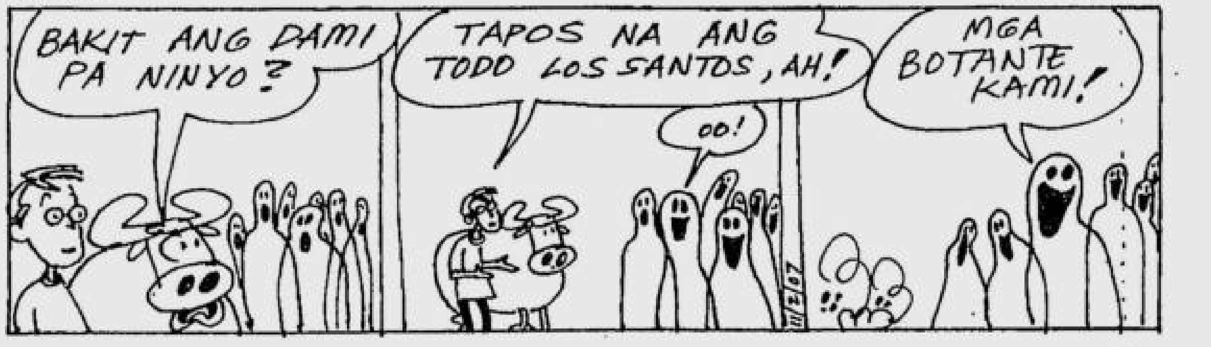
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


PLEASE, ARVIN... PUWEDE NA TAYO RITO! LAHAT SILA, WALA NA TIYAK! IYON ANG HULING BALITA SA AMIN!
PINAKAHULING TAGUAN NINA JENNY AT ARVIN, ISANG TENEMENT HOUSE...
NAKAKAHIYA SA IYO...
MAY GANOON PA BA TAYO, ARVIN?
HINDI BALE... PUPUNTAHAN KO SI JIM!
PERO... AYOKONG MAGTAGAL DITO! WALA AKONG TIWALA SA MGA MUKHA NG TAO RITO!
MAY KATUWIRAN SI ARVIN...
OKEY 'YANG BAGONG KOSTUMER. GANDAAA!
SARIWA... MAKINIS... PWEDENG PULUTAN!
'DE UMPISAHAN! HIK!
TO BE CONTINUED

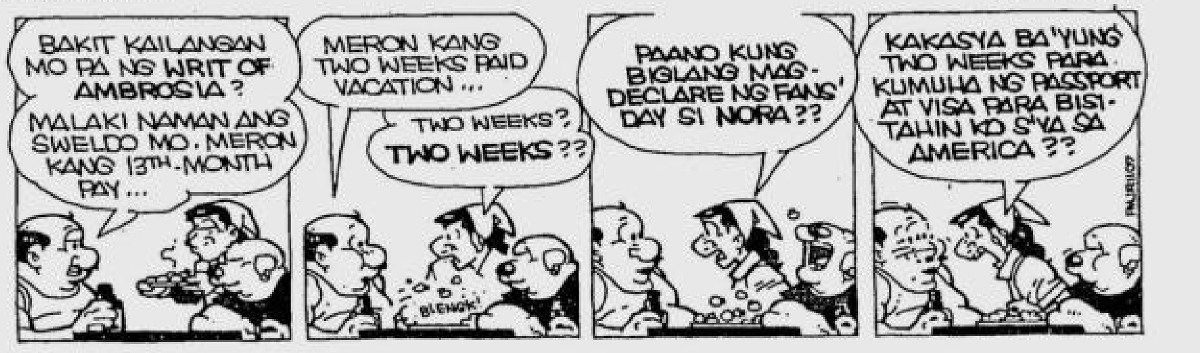
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT ANG DAMI PA NINYO?
TAPOS NA ANG TODO LOS SANTOS, AH!
OO!
MGA BOTANTE KAMI!

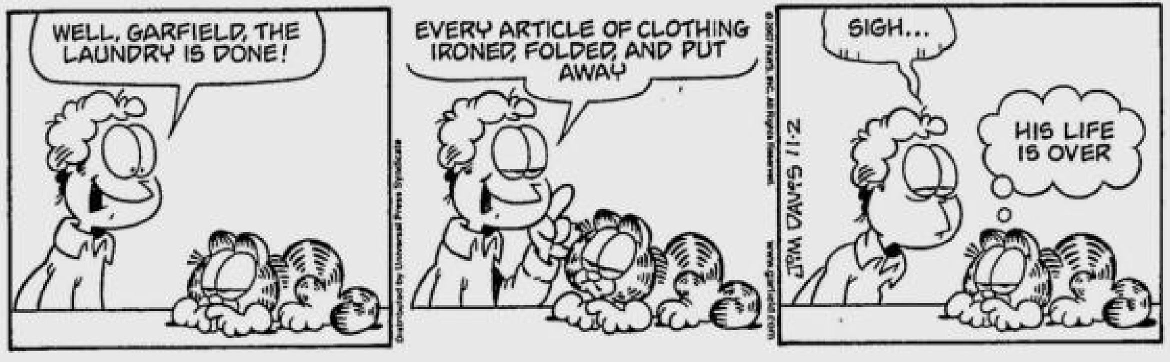
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT KAILANGAN MO PA NG WRIT OF AMBROSIA?
MALAKI NAMAN ANG SWELDO MO. MERON KANG 13TH-MONTH PAY...
MERON KANG TWO WEEKS PAID VACATION...
TWO WEEKS? TWO WEEKS??
BLEHGK!
PAANO KUNG BIGLANG MAG-DECLARE NG FANS' DAY SI NORA??
KAKASYA BA 'YUNG TWO WEEKS PARA KUMUHA NG PASSPORT AT VISA PARA BISITAHIN KO S'YA SA AMERICA??

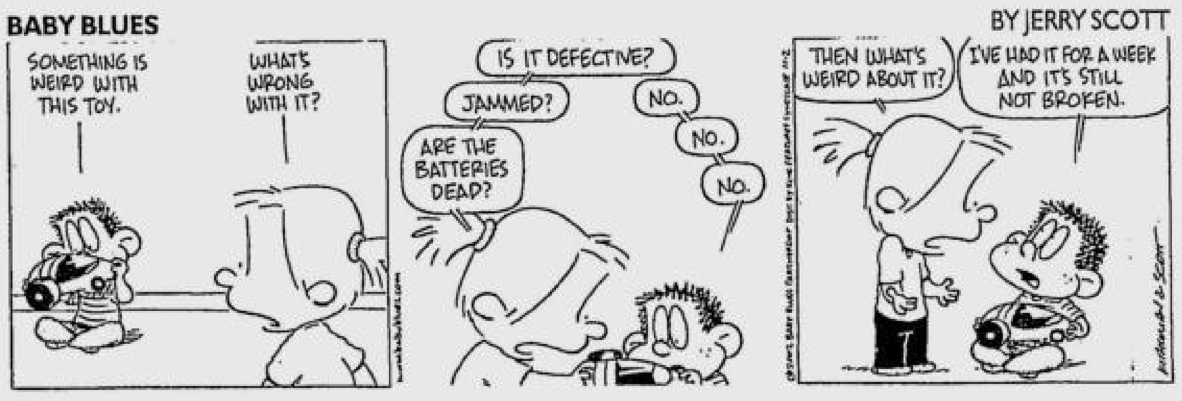
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WELL, GARFIELD, THE LAUNDRY IS DONE!
EVERY ARTICLE OF CLOTHING IRONED, FOLDED, AND PUT AWAY
JIM DAVIS 11-2
SIGH...
HIS LIFE IS OVER

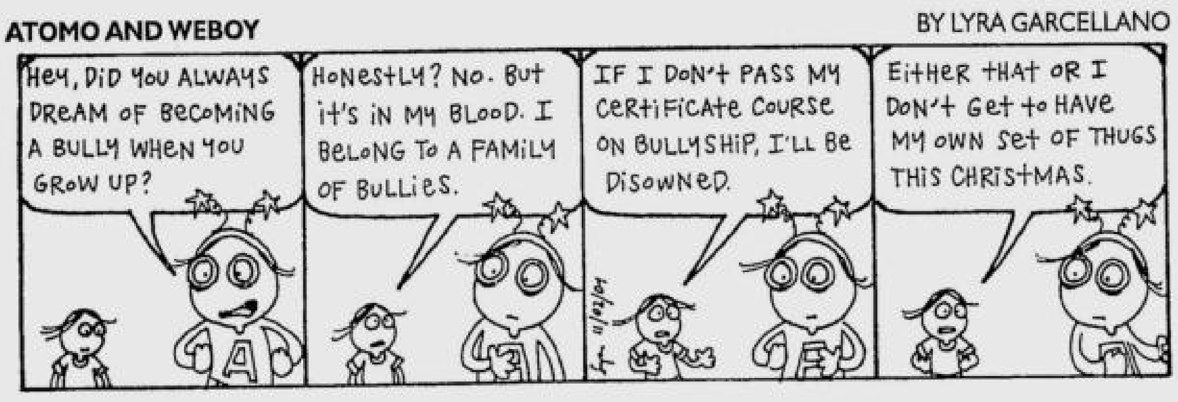
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SOMETHING IS WEIRD WITH THIS TOY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
IS IT DEFECTIVE?
JAMMED?
ARE THE BATTERIES DEAD?
NO.
NO.
NO.
THEN WHAT'S WEIRD ABOUT IT?
I'VE HAD IT FOR A WEEK AND IT'S STILL NOT BROKEN.

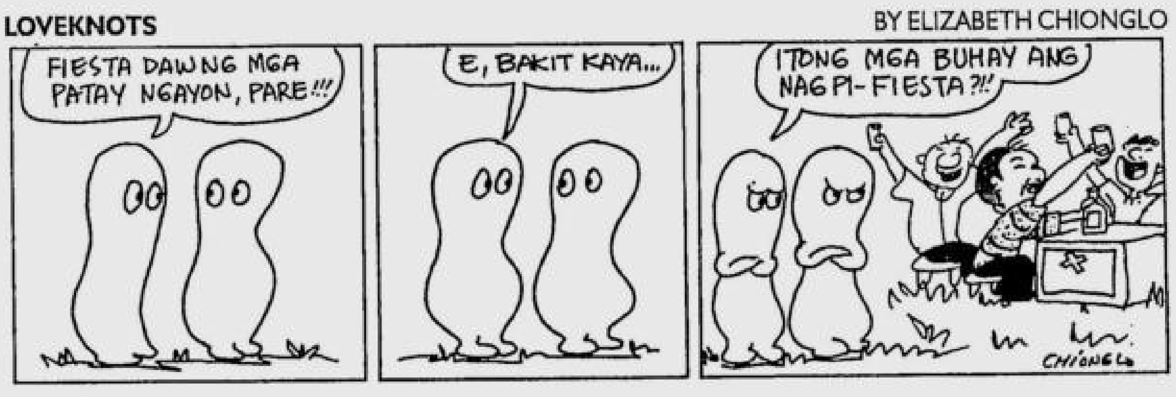
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, DID YOU ALWAYS DREAM OF BECOMING A BULLY WHEN YOU GROW UP?
HONESTLY? NO. BUT IT'S IN MY BLOOD. I BELONG TO A FAMILY OF BULLIES.
IF I DON'T PASS MY CERTIFICATE COURSE ON BULLYSHIP, I'LL BE DISOWNED.
EITHER THAT OR I DON'T GET TO HAVE MY OWN SET OF THUGS THIS CHRISTMAS.

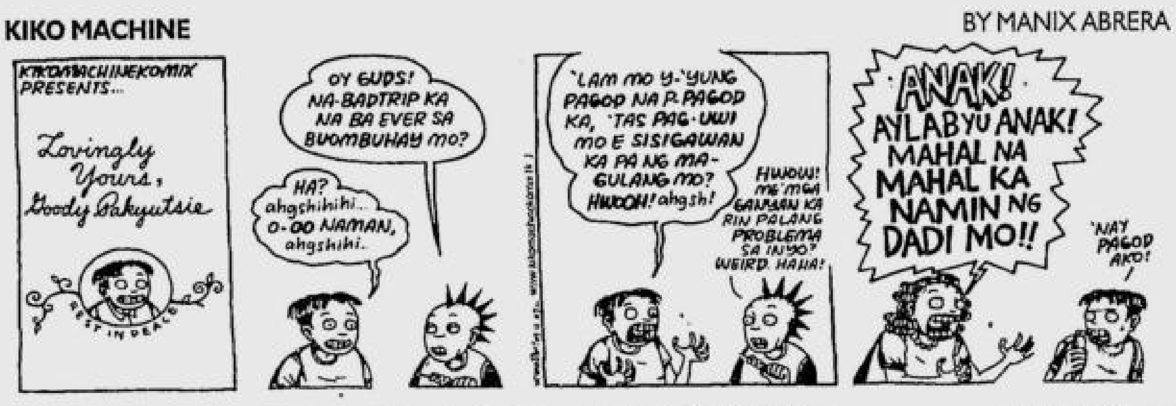
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


FIESTA DAW NG MGA PATAY NGAYON, PARE!!!
E, BAKIT KAYA...
ITONG MGA BUHAY ANG NAGPI-FIESTA?!!
CHIONGLO

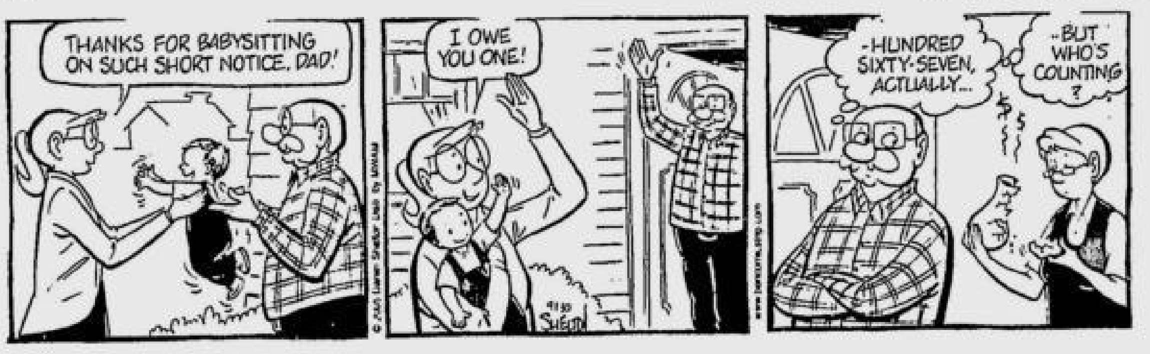
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
Lovingly Yours, Goody Bakyutsie
REST IN PEACE
OY GUDS! NA-BADTRIP KA NA BA EVER SA BUONG BUHAY MO?
HA? ahgshihihi.. O-OO NAMAN, ahgshihi..
'LAM MO Y-'YUNG PAGOD NA P-PAGOD KA, 'TAS PAG-UWI MO E SISIGAWAN KA PA NG MAGULANG MO? HWOOH! ahgsh!
HWOW! ME'MGA GANYAN KA RIN PALANG PROBLEMA SA INYO? WEIRD. HAHA!
ANAK! AYLABYU ANAK! MAHAL NA MAHAL KA NAMIN NG DADI MO!!
'NAY PAGOD AKO!

BEN

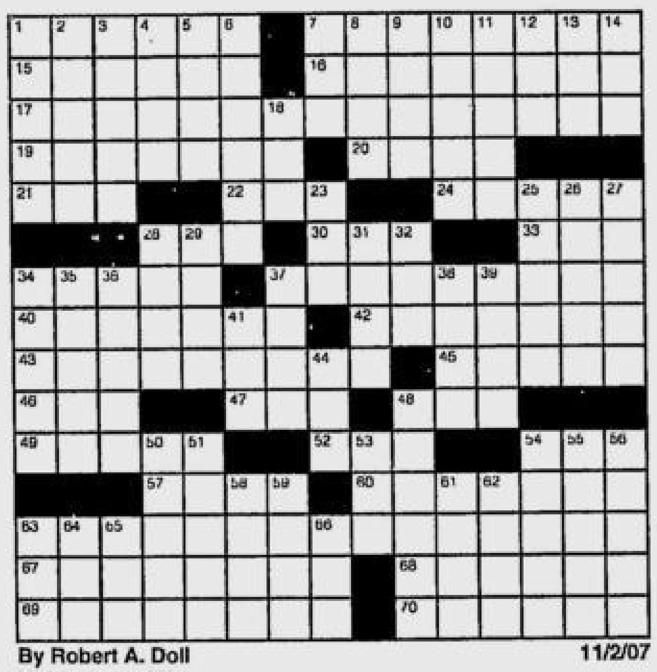
BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS FOR BABYSITTING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, DAD!
I OWE YOU ONE!
-HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN, ACTUALLY...
-BUT WHO'S COUNTING?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Centers of action
7 Egg-laying mammal
15 Old Testament prophet
16 Produce anew
17 Glad-handing politician's road sign?
19 Mosaic tile
20 Fender impression
21 Pig's digs
22 Shell-game item
24 Mud smears
28 Pharm. watchdog
30 Actress Lupino
33 Victoria's Secret purchase
34 Of the moon
37 Dieter's road sign?
40 First
42 Extol
43 Shopaholic's road sign?
45 Motel listings
46 Facial twitch
47 Gobbled up
48 Afghan money
49 Oozes
52 Mai ___ cocktail
54 Depression Era agcy.
57 Art print: abbr.
60 Increase in strength, as wind
63 Out-of-sorts patron's road sign?
67 Add breath to pronunciation
68 Browbeat
69 Spruced up
70 One who wails

DOWN
1 Wet sprays
2 Dot on a map
3 Dagwood's dog
4 Uses a straw
5 Racetrack ribbon
6 Everest guide
7 Be a buttinsky
8 Obscene
9 Painful throb
10 Prevailing force
11 Busybody
12 Actress Dawber
13 Shoshone
14 In position
18 ___ Dawn Chong
23 Broadcast
25 Ger. submarine
26 Beast
27 Fills to capacity
28 Karma
29 Tap problem
31 Clock face
32 Append
34 Itemizations
35 Disentangle
36 Dorothy, to Em
37 Dart about
38 Wise mentor
39 Israeli airline
41 Arab garment
44 Permit to
48 Robbery on the high seas
50 ___ fours
51 Saw wood?
53 Lackland or Eglin, e.g.
54 Spin around
55 Old pieces of pounds
56 Wrath
58 Crimebuster
59 Nerve network
61 End of a switch?
62 Give a bias to
63 Is able to
64 Bring into play
65 Rejuvenation center
66 Scarlet or crimson



By Robert A. Doll
Hattiesburg, MS
11/2/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	I	M	S	■	C	A	T	S	■	S	U	P	S
C	A	N	O	E	■	O	G	E	E	■	E	P	E	E
A	M	A	N	W	H	O	U	S	E	S	M	O	R	E
R	I	L	E	■	E	T	A	L	■	P	I	N	U	P
F	A	L	T	E	R	■	■	A	S	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	W	O	R	D	S	T	H	A	N	H	E
P	I	L	S	E	N	E	R	■	U	N	L	O	A	D
E	C	O	N	■	■	B	A	T	■	■	A	R	I	D
C	O	C	O	A	S	■	F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y
K	N	O	W	S	T	O	T	E	L	L	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	A	T	■	■	O	I	L	M	A	N
E	N	T	R	E	■	T	A	S	S	■	A	O	N	E
M	O	R	E	T	H	A	N	H	E	K	N	O	W	S
I	V	A	N	■	S	W	E	E	■	E	C	L	A	T
R	A	P	T	■	T	A	W	S	■	N	E	A	R	S

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
11/2/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're constantly evolving and changing. Your style and savvy in doing this often set trends with others. Because of this, whether you seek it or not, you have a strong influence on others. You're clever and learn things quickly. Around age 50, you face a big turning point in your life. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: Marie Antoinette, French queen; k.d. lang, singer; Pat Buchanan, political analyst.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day for parties and social occasions. Get together with others and enjoy a good time. It's also a wonderful day to flirt!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You'll be happy with domestic gatherings and family get-togethers today. It's also an excellent day for real estate deals. You want to share your home with others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel so optimistic today that you want to enlighten others about your good ideas. Enjoy the company of people, especially relatives and siblings.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Commerce and business can flourish today. Similarly, it's also an excellent day to shop. All financial transactions will be profitable for you now and in the future.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel upbeat, optimistic and happy today. (It's easy for you to have a positive frame of mind.) Why not plan a vacation or a social outing with your favorite people?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Many of you will feel in touch with your inner world or your spiritual side today. On a practical level, dealings with the government and large institutions should be successful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): What a popular day for you! You'll enjoy the company of friends and groups. Accept all invitations. Get out and enjoy yourself. Talk about your goals for the future with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Relations with bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures are excellent today. In fact, others are impressed with you. They see that you take a long-range view of things—and it's a positive one!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel plans look exciting. Ditto for any kind of plans related to training or further education. You're excited about your future possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Gifts and goodies can come your way today. Good news about inheritances and insurance settlements also might please you. You can clean up today!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day for important discussions or just fun times with partners and close friends. People feel positive, enthusiastic and open to sharing ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's easy to work today because you're enthusiastic and so are your co-workers. It's true—a happy frame of mind promotes productivity!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	2				9		6	
3				4		1		5
	9				7			
1		7						
	8						7	
						4		6
			1				5	
4		2		7				9
	3		6				8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/02

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

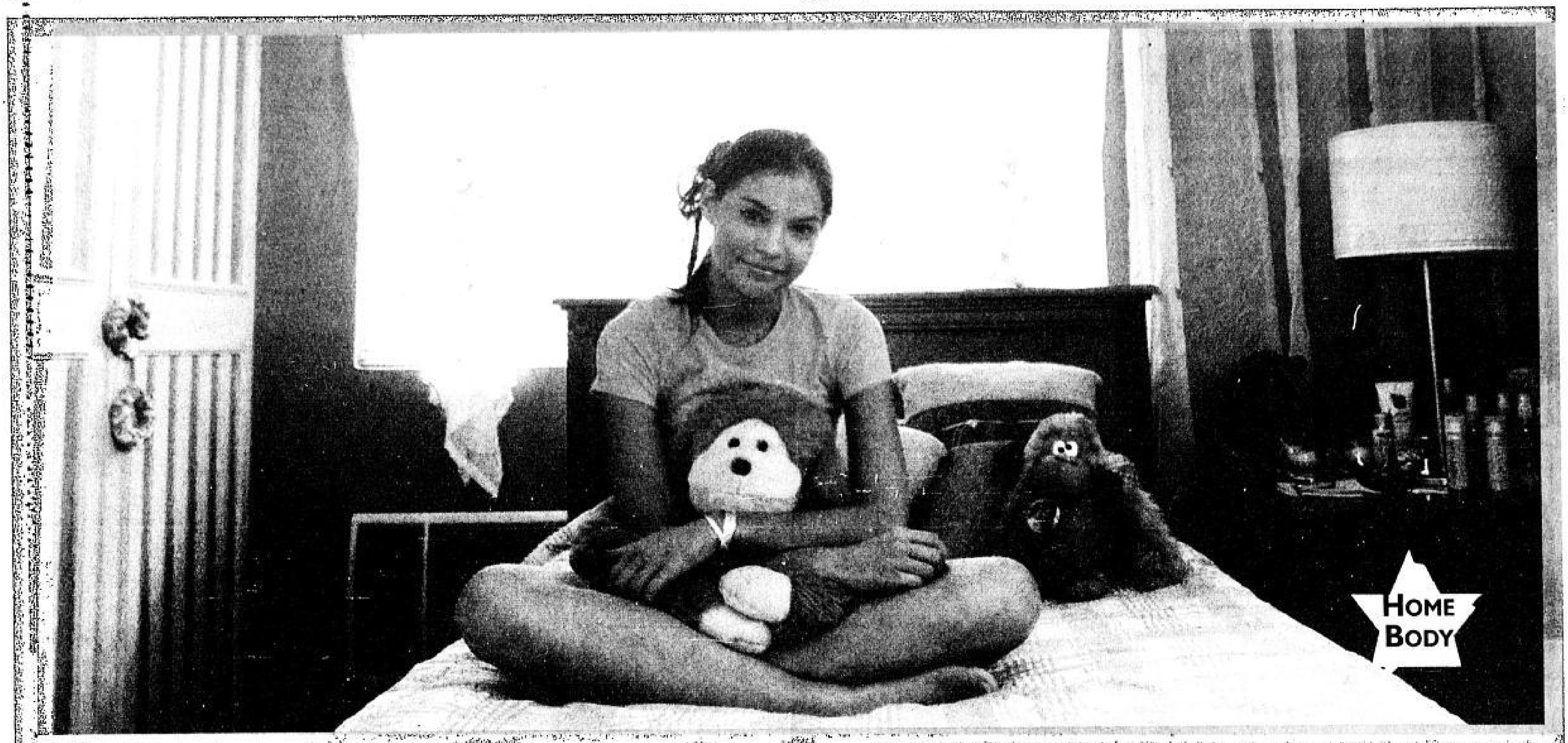
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

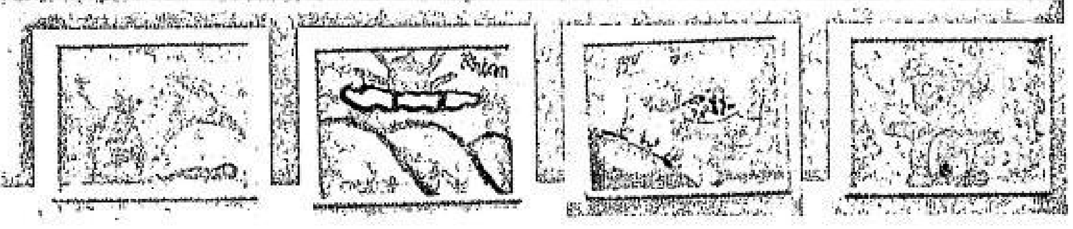
Answer to previous puzzle

8	3	5	9	1	7	6	2	4
1	6	2	4	3	8	5	7	9
7	4	9	5	6	2	1	3	8
9	8	7	6	4	3	2	5	1
2	1	4	8	7	5	9	6	3
6	5	3	1	2	9	8	4	7
5	2	1	3	8	4	7	9	6
3	7	8	2	9	6	4	1	5
4	9	6	7	5	1	3	8	2

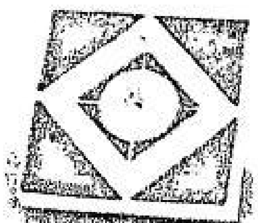
Difficulty Level ★★★



Sweet Valley Gal



CERAMIC candle holder (below) and brass turtle on the lanai table



Teen star Rhian Ramos thinks suburbia is a perfect fit for her laid-back personality

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ryan Lim

EVEN THOUGH HOME IS A TWO-HOUR drive away from the GMA 7 studios, teen star Rhian Ramos doesn't mind a bit.

She obviously relishes the idea of being far from work—physically, geographically—on her days off.

Show biz can be tiring, she admits candidly. "I don't mind being around people all the time and I know it's part of the job, but once in a while I crave a little peace and quiet."

On such days, you'd most probably catch her cooped up in her bedroom, which was given a makeover on the old Kapuso show "Ang Pagbabago."

She calls her room her "private space."

"In my room, no one can bother me, even if I sleep the entire day," she quips. "There are days when I'm like: 'Don't talk to me; I'm stressed!'"

Apart from snoozing, she also enjoys listening to music, watching DVDs of "Grey's Anatomy" and surfing the Net.

"I also update my blog for the Animax show 'Mad, Mad Fun,'" she notes.

Of course, she also does her homework in the computer room. (She's a high school junior in a home study program.)

"But lately my mom is getting annoyed because I'd rather watch 'Grey's Anatomy' than do schoolwork," she jests.

She also loves "taking long, leisurely baths" at home. "It's something I can't indulge in when I'm in a faraway location shoot."

At home, she takes care of 12-year-old Doberman Miss Claudia or Claw—"and my other pets, my three cacti," which are displayed in the lanai.

She loves hanging out in the pocket garden and lanai, which boasts a native sala set that's "older than me."

Rhian's mom Lay confirms: "That was the original set in our old home. I bought it before Rhian was born."

Rhian's mom is largely responsible for decorating the place.

"I fixed it up, but it was her dad [British expat Gareth Howell] who thought of having high ceilings. He wanted a home that's very open, with lots of big windows to let the light in and to showcase the view," Lay recounts.

Rhian describes her mom's décor taste as "modern Asian."

"I chose most of the pieces of furniture," Lay recalls. "But my sister (GMA Artist Center exec Ida Henares) also put in an idea or two. Like the wrought-iron panels in the foyer."

The buffet table in the dining area is also a gift from Rhian's Tita Ida. "It looked heavy before. So we changed the wooden doors to frosted glass and updated the knobs."

Rhian clearly inherited her artistic gifts from mom Lay, who also bottles and sells gourmet *tuyo* and pasta sauces to friends.

"I want to take up a creative course like fashion design," the 16-year-old actress says. (Displayed in the second floor hallway are framed drawings made by Rhian and older sister Nadine when they were kids.)

Rhian, who recently bagged the Sharon Cuneta role on the afternoon soap "My Only Love," loves tinkering with the clothes she buys off the rack.

"So that it'll look unique, I always have a jacket or dress altered," she says.

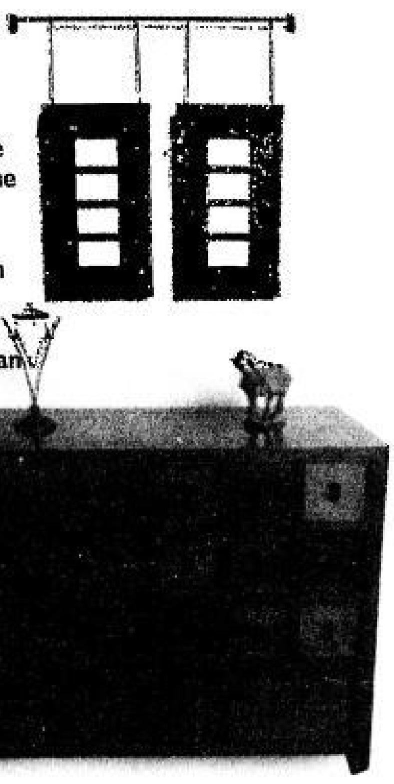
That's precisely why living in the suburbs is ideal for her.

"If you need to have clothes modified or if you need to buy groceries, you just go to any of the three nearby malls," she relates. "Everything is within reach, but at the same time it's not a noisy, rowdy place."

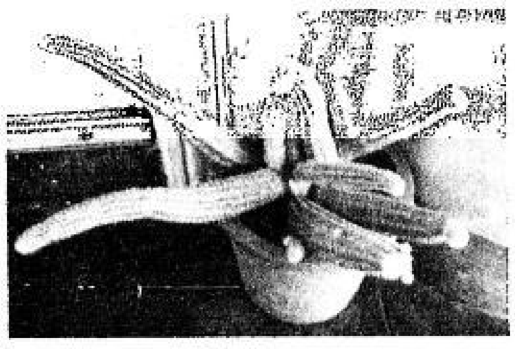
Suburbia's never boring, though.

"If the kids want to have fun, we just throw house parties," she exclaims.

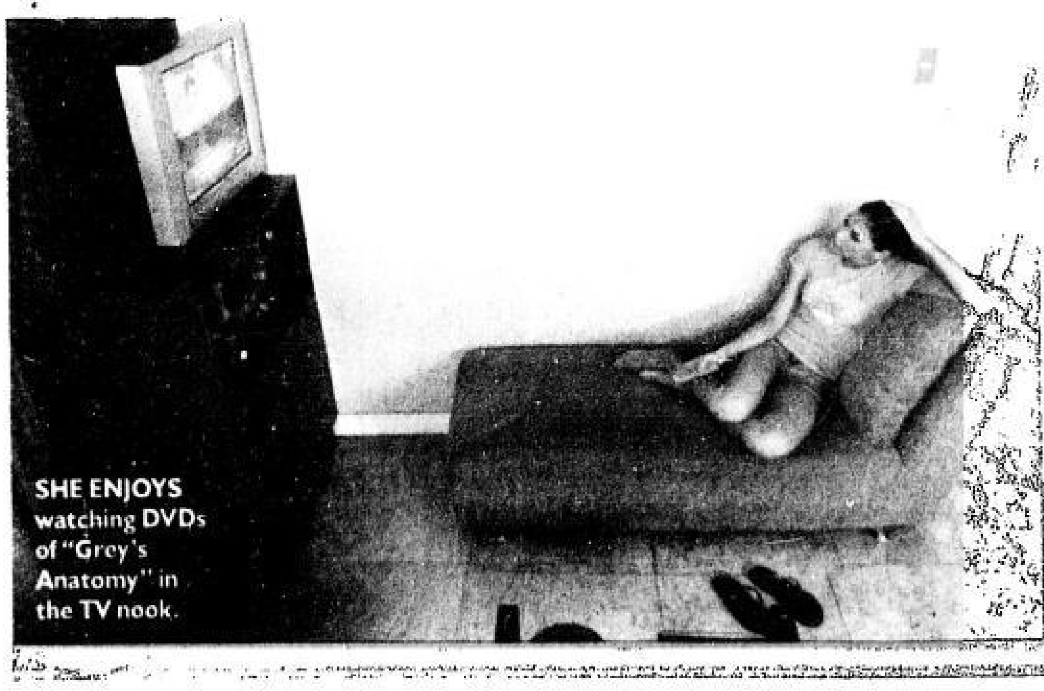
SHE DOES schoolwork and posts stories on her blog in the computer room/office.



MOM LAY found the Chinese medicine cabinet and wooden frames in a suburban mall.



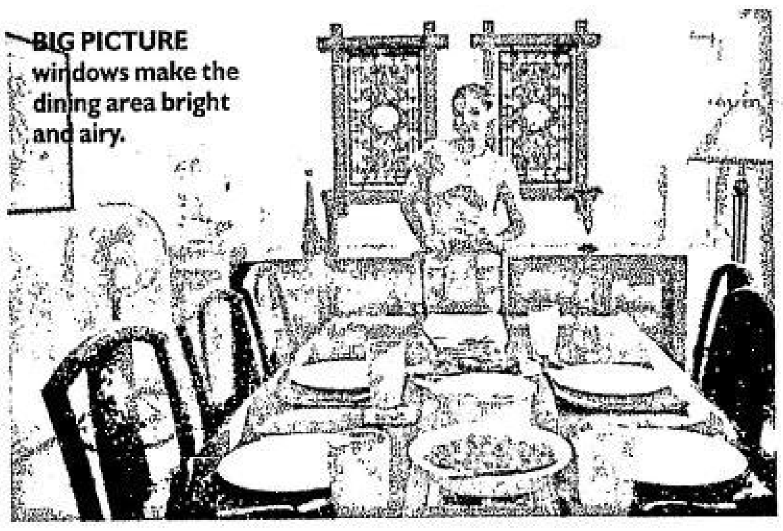
ONE OF three cacti, which she considers her "pets."



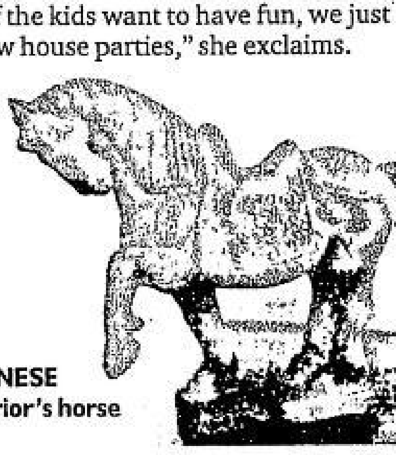
SHE ENJOYS watching DVDs of "Grey's Anatomy" in the TV nook.

RHIAN and sister Nadine made these kiddie drawings (above), on display in the hallway upstairs.

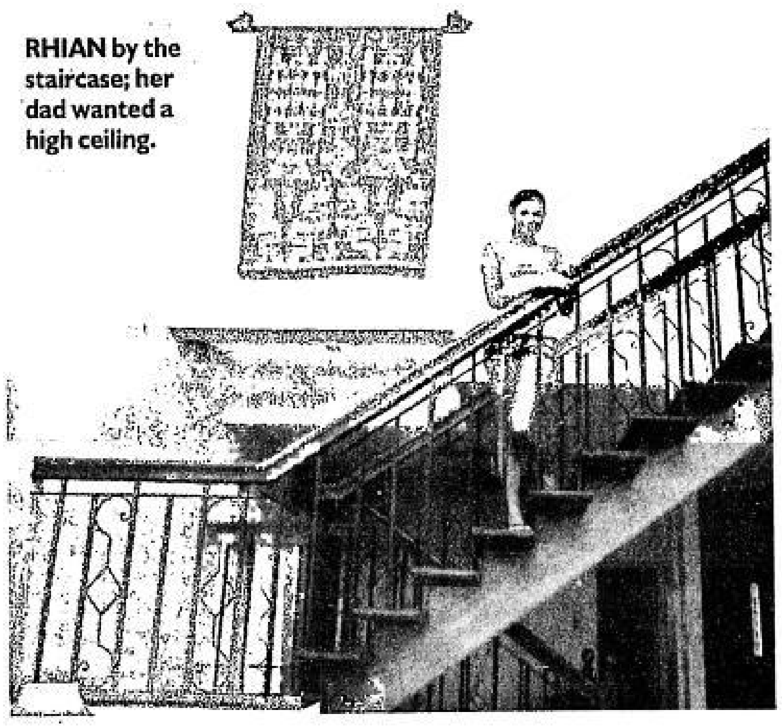
RHIAN inherited her artistry from mom Lay, right, who decorated the place.



BIG PICTURE windows make the dining area bright and airy.



CHINESE warrior's horse

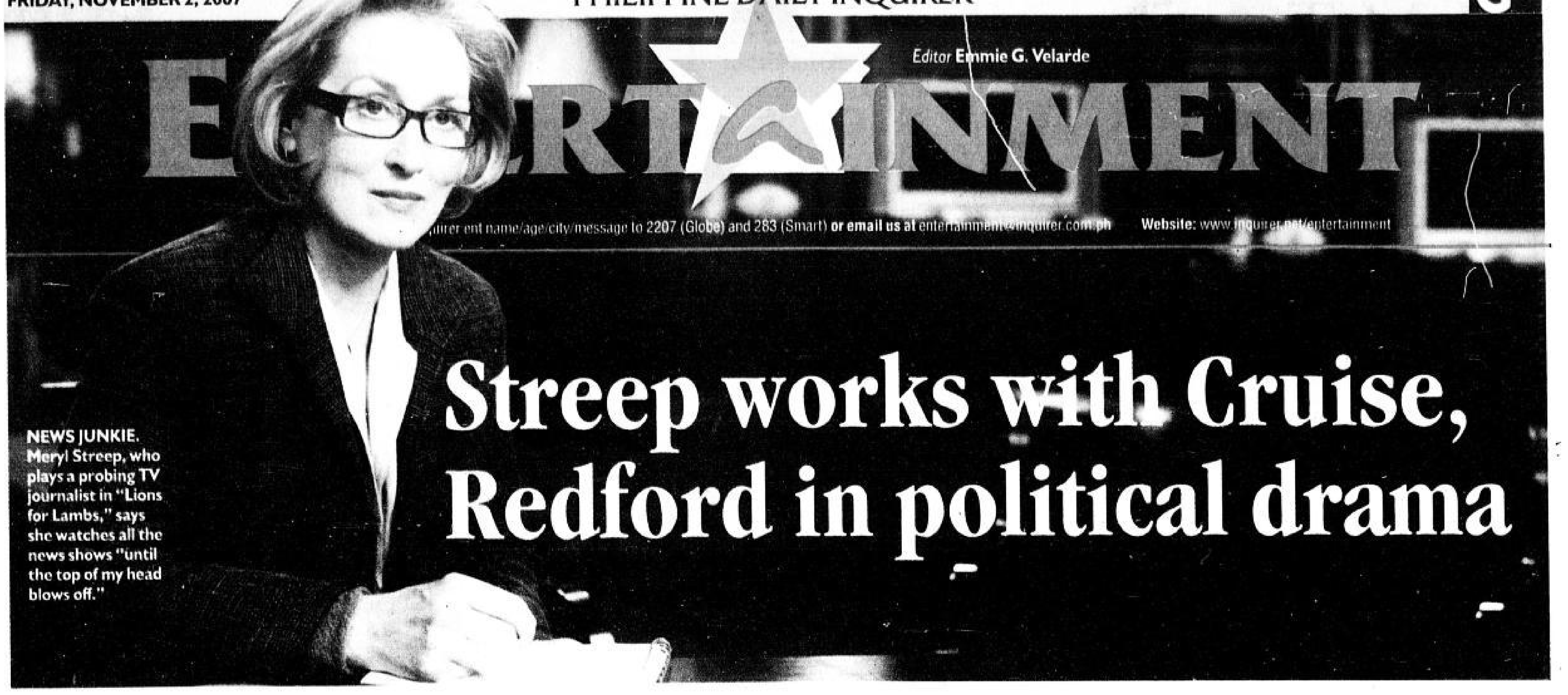


RHIAN by the staircase; her dad wanted a high ceiling.

LIVING room is in shades of beige, brown and green.

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

uirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment



NEWS JUNKIE. Meryl Streep, who plays a probing TV journalist in "Lions for Lambs," says she watches all the news shows "until the top of my head blows off."

Streep works with Cruise, Redford in political drama

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—**TOM CRUISE** WAS RHAPsodic about working with **Meryl Streep** and **Robert Redford** in “Lions for Lambs”—confessing to being in awe in the presence of the two leads in the memorable “Out of Africa.” But Meryl offered an interesting take on what surprised her the most about Tom.

Meryl, considered the greatest actress of our time, acted opposite Tom for the first time in “Lions,” which is also significant for reuniting her and Robert since they did “Out of Africa,” the 1985 Oscar Best Picture Award winner.

This time though, Robert, while also appearing in the film, is not Meryl's leading man. He is her director in “Lions,” which is the first movie to come out of United Artists since Tom Cruise and his producing partner, **Paula Wagner**, took over the studio last year.

Meryl, record holder for the most Academy Award nominations (14) and the most Golden Globe Awards in the film categories (six) plays a TV journalist who is about to be given a bombshell story by a charismatic senator and presidential hopeful (Tom) in Washington, DC.

In California, a professor (Robert) is trying to reach out to a disaffected student (**Andrew Garfield**). Out in Afghanistan, two students (**Michael Peña** and **Derek Luke**) who heeded the prof's call to do something important with their lives by enlisting in the military (not quite what the teacher had in mind) are going to be seriously impacted by the senator's bold plan to head off the Taliban.

While actresses complain about ageism in Hollywood, Meryl seems to be busier than ever since her deliciously wicked turn in “The Devil Wears Prada.” She is also in “Rendition” with **Reese Witherspoon** and **Jake Gyllenhaal**. Meryl's upcoming films include adaptations of two stage hits: “Mamma Mia!,” where we had the pleasure of watching her sing when we visited the set in London; and “Doubt” (she'll play Sister Aloysius).

This is your first time to work with Tom Cruise. What surprised you most about him?

Tom brought lots of energy, personal power, charm and focus... I remember what they told us at drama school—you can't play a king. What makes you seem like a king onstage is that everybody else bows down when you come onstage. The atmosphere shifts when Tom enters the set. That really has to do with the way the crew regards him. People in the business regard him as a kind of money-making power. That is very eloquent to people in our industry. It makes them react in a different way than they do when, let's say, **Steve Buscemi** walks into the set (laughter).

And how was it working with your old friend, Robert Redford, as a director?

With Bob, oh my God, it was really fun to work with him as a director because he understands what we're going though as actors. He's sympathetic. He's not autocratic in any way. He's collegial. It's just really fun to see him because I haven't seen him in years and years.

But didn't you remain friends since doing “Out of Africa”?

Yes, we talk on the phone but I haven't really seen him in a long time.

Mr. Redford said that initially, he thought this film would never get made. Now, it is made and is also carries the first release from the new United Artists.

Somebody has to go out on a limb and I think that UA has done that with a piece that's contentious, controversial and a prod to the conscience. It's a tough film to market and yet, thank God they made it. We can say, “Yeah, in 2007, we accurately reflected what was happening. It's a marker of where we are right now.”

Since you play a probing TV journalist in the film, let's imagine—if there is one question you could ask Mr. Bush, what would that be?

I would ask if it's so hard to admit that you've made a mistake (on declaring a war on Iraq). It shouldn't be that hard. If he doesn't feel he has made a mistake, then there's no question to be asked. But I would ask, “Why is it so difficult? Is he afraid to appear weak? Would a mistake or a misjudgment make him vulnerable to being perceived as weak around the world? What's the problem with acknowledging mistakes?” I think we'd go a long way in the world if that were done. But that's not really a question. That's a statement, isn't it?

MALE LEADS. Streep acts opposite Tom Cruise, right, for the first time and reunites with "Out of Africa" costar Robert Redford who also directs this political thriller.

You call yourself a “news junkie.” What do you watch?

I watch C-SPAN, MSNBC, Fox and everything until the top of my head blows off (laughter). We're living in a time when it's our responsibility to keep up with what's going on. And yet sometimes, keeping up with all the things that are going on is a substitute for acting on what you know. We almost use all the information as a thing to substitute for actually doing something.

Can you comment on certain media organizations supportive of only one side?

There's Fox News that's an absolute advocate for one point of view without any worries about journalistic ethics and balance. They don't have to think about that. They're also in the business of entertainment. A big part of the business is to know who you're selling to and what you're selling. They seem to be selling largely erectile dysfunction products (laughter) but who

STREEP/ G2

Mendez
MEDICAL GROUP

Miss Earth 2007

JOIN US & MEET THEM
on November 2 At Robinson's
Metroeast for our Grand Opening
EVERYONE'S INVITED... SEE YOU THERE...

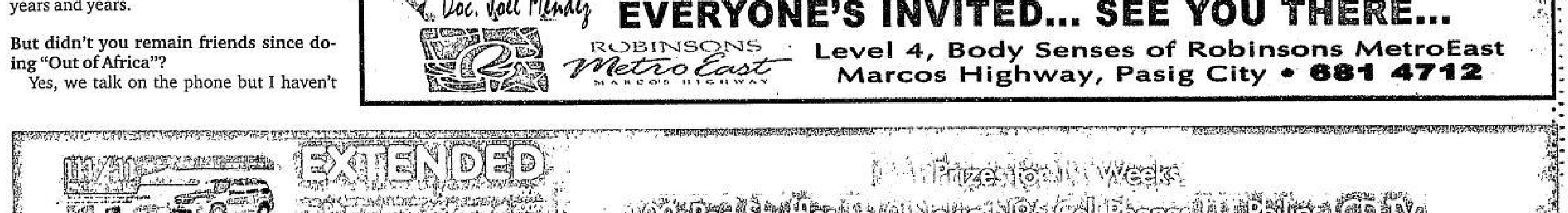
Doc. Yoel Mendez

ROBINSONS Metro East MARCOS HIGHWAY

Level 4, Body Senses of Robinsons MetroEast
Marcos Highway, Pasig City • 681 4712

MISS EARTH

personal commitment
FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING



EXTENDED

Prizes to Weeks
100 iPod Shuffles | 10 Nokia N95 Cell Phones | 1 Philips LCD TV
Grand Prizes 1 Mazda 3 | 1 Mazda 6 | 1 Mazda Tribute

hp

©2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Off-putting occupations featu

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

WE CAUGHT THE SECOND telecast of "Dirty Jobs" on the Discovery Channel last Monday, Oct. 22, and found it an instructive testament to the far-out and "desperate" choices some unusually resolute workers are prepared to make in order to survive and feed their families.

The first wasn't particularly gripping because it involved mainly coping with the slime and injuries involved in "harvesting" giant catfish from a muddy river. Hey, there are worse ways to fill your stomach...

But the show's second feature was genuinely, insuperably filthy, involving as it did rucking three-year-old muck from septic tanks. The yucky liquids and solids emanating from those tanks were so off-putting that viewers could practically smell them.

The episode ended with a feature on a family that raised millions of earthworms for their excrement, which it sold to farmers as organic fertilizer.

The earthworms did look yucky, but this feature couldn't hold a candle in terms of nastiness to septic tank excavation.

So, the Oct. 22 episode wasn't consistently gag reflex-inducing. Still, the show did achieve its unstated objective of making viewers grateful for the jobs they had, because they weren't as horrendous as the fetid occupations that the program featured.

Program host and resident "guinea pig" **Mike Rowe** won our admiration for jumping into that muddy river, enduring the septic tank sludge, and handling all those wriggly worms. On the other hand, we found that he complained too much, constantly whining about the ordeals he was being subjected to.

Sure, the work that he was made to do was awful, but all that grousing got to be a drag. Rowe should opt for more sardonic humor to help him get over the sleaze and smells—after all, he

Streep w

From page G1

knows. It's individual decisions by individual journalists—whether they're going to say to their boss, "I just don't want to cover the **Paris Hilton-Britney Spears-Lindsay Lohan** (beat). I just don't feel that it's news. I just don't want to do that."

How do you manage to avoid the tabloids and the paparazzi?

I don't know why they don't follow me around (laughter). But I don't really go to many places. If I go to the theater, awards ceremonies or something, people take pictures. But in my life, they don't follow me around.

Why are you are working more these days than you have in your life?

I really can't explain my employment schedule lately (laughter). I really don't know why that's happening but I am very happy. I do have more time than when everybody was little (her children with husband, sculptor **Don Gummer**). I just feel lucky. There are more stories about women. There are films with important, interesting and complex parts for women of my age that are green lit. It's probably because there may be more women executives who are making those decisions or who are helping to make them.

What are your children up to?

My son (**Henry**) is a musician in Los Angeles. He's working at a gallery to support himself (laughter). Mamie (real name is **Mary Willa**; Mamie Gummer is her stage name)

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 STARDUST
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 HALLOWEEN

PREMIERE
30 DAYS OF NIGHT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE & SEEK

starmall EDSA - SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) UNREST
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433394
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

THEATRES
Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 STURDUST
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 STARDUST
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
10 HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) BALL OF FURY
2 (DOLBY) HIDE & SEEK
3 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 HILANDER
3 KNOCKED UP
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALL OF FURY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HALLOWEEN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 LAST LEGION

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 BALL OF FURY
3 HALLOWEEN
4 LUST CAUTION (SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NO RESERVATION
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 DON'T LOOKBACK
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 RETRIBUTION
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 HIGHLANDER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 NO RESERVATION
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 STURDUST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 RESIDENT EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE & SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 PILYA
3 HUBAD NA MULTO
4 HILGHLANDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 MOLATA
3 NO RESERVATION
4 DON'T LOOKBACK
5 HAIRSPRAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 STURDUST
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHTS
3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:05
R-13

2 BALLS OF FURY
2:10, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00
G

3 HALLOWEEN
3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
R-13

4 LUST, CAUTION
1:25, 4:35, 7:45,10:55
R-18

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LUST CAUTION 12:00 , 3:20 , 6:40 10:00 R-18
CINEMA 2 UNREST / RENDITION 11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50 / 5:35 , 8:05 , 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 30 DAYS OF NIGHTS 11:35 , 2:20 , 5:05 7:50 , 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 HALLOWEEN 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 5 BALLS OF FURY 11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

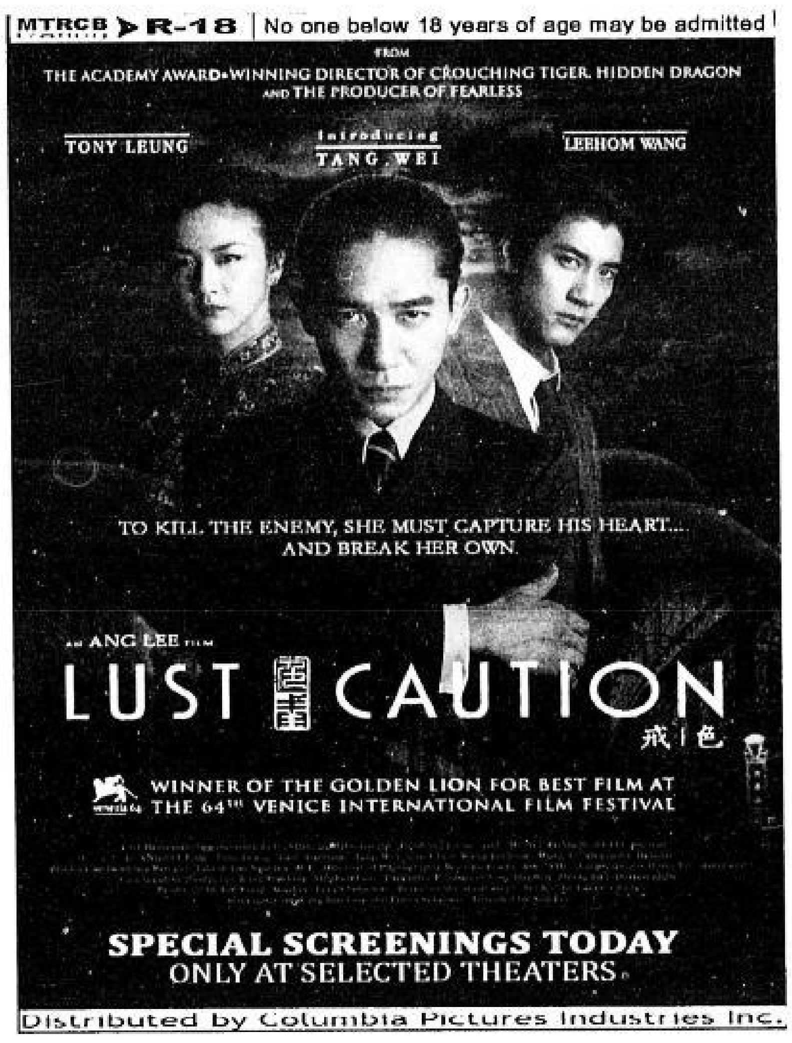
November 9&10 , 16&17, 23&24	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM

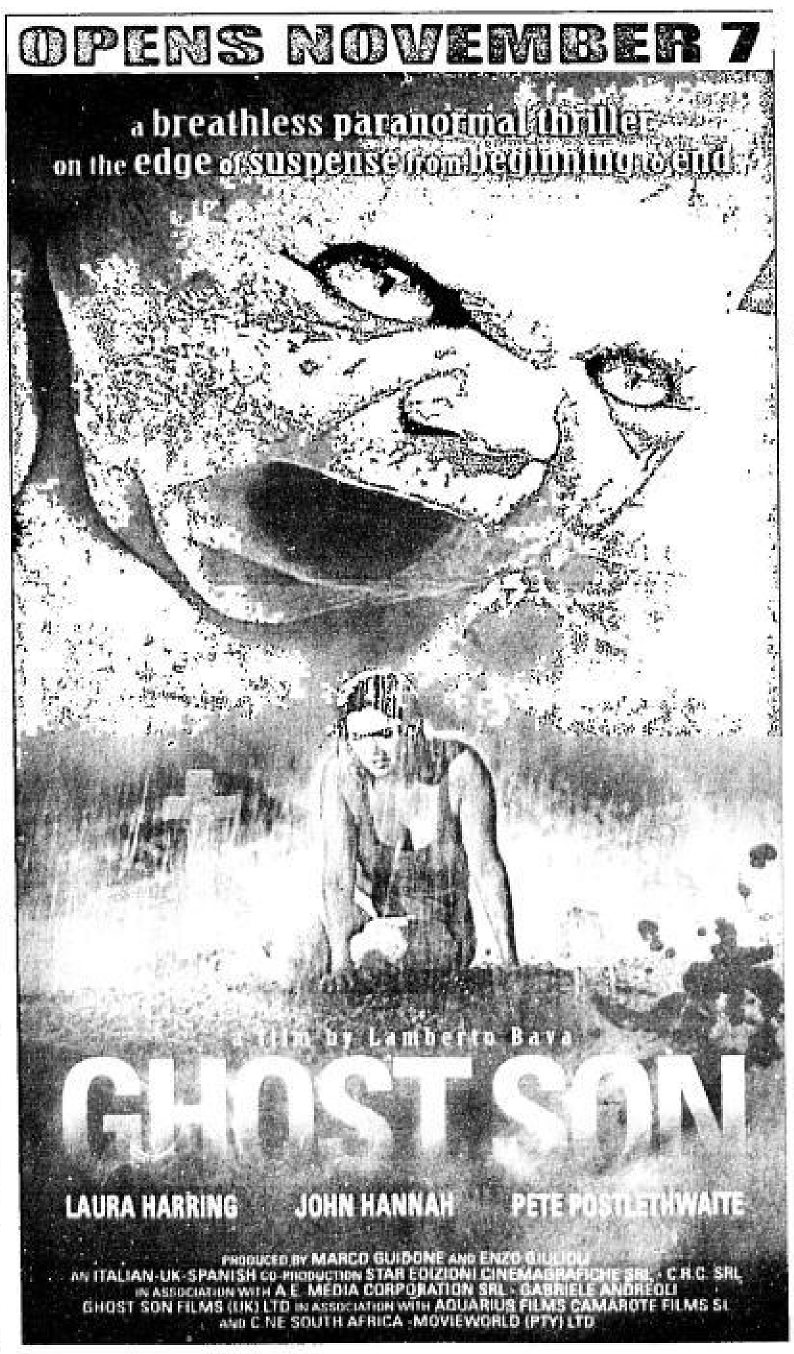
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

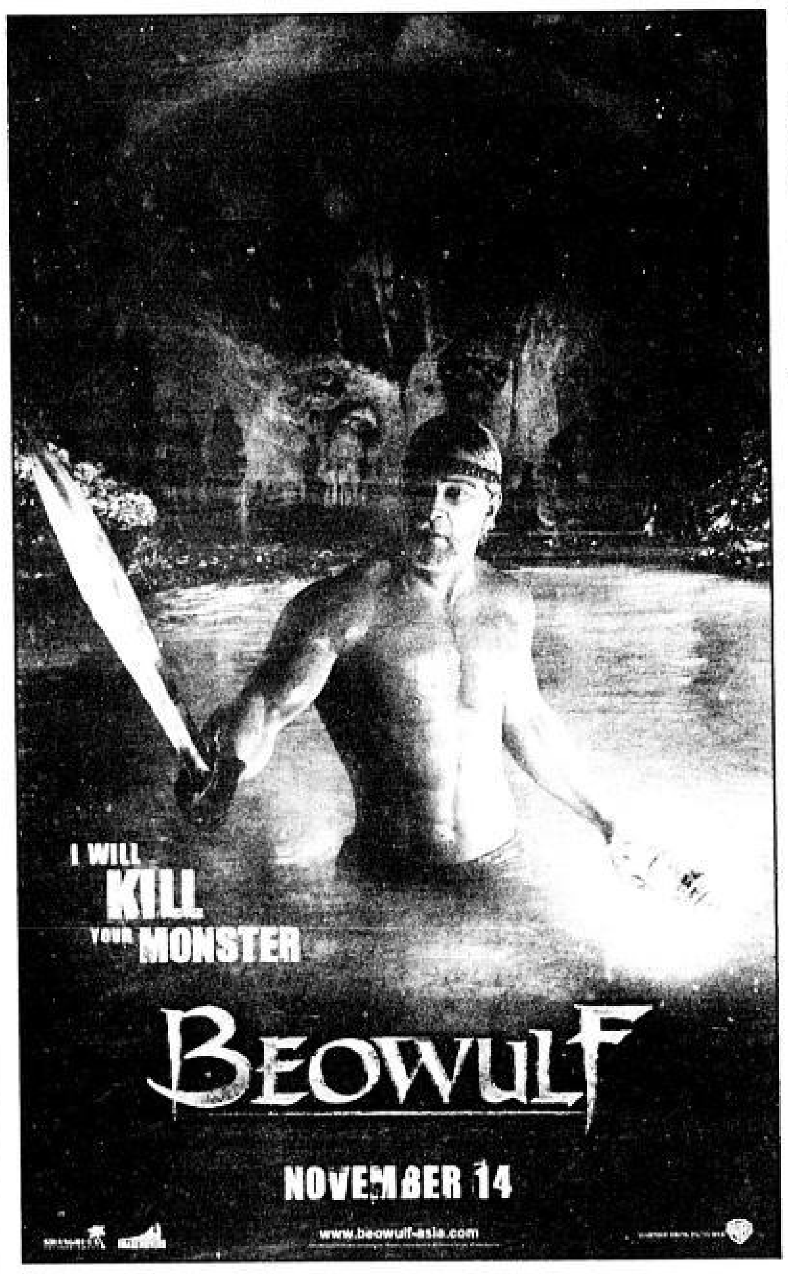
Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 STARDUST MTRCB GP 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
2 BALLS OF FURY MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 LUST, CAUTION MTRCB R-18 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
4 HALLOWEEN MTRCB R-13 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE 30 DAYS OF NIGHT (R-13) 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza


MTRCB R-18 No one below 18 years of age may be admitted
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
TONY LEUNG
Introducing TANG WEI
LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
AN ANG LEE FILM
LUST CAUTION
戒|色
WINNER OF THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AT THE 64TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SPECIAL SCREENINGS TODAY
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS.
Distributed by Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.


OPENS NOVEMBER 7
a breathless paranormal thriller on the edge of suspense from beginning to end
a film by Lamberto Bava
GHOST SON
LAURA HARRING
JOHN HANNAH
PETE POSTLETHWAITE
PRODUCED BY MARCO GUIDONE AND ENZO GIULIOLI
AN ITALIAN-UK-SPANISH CO-PRODUCTION STAR EDIZIONI CINEMAGRAFICHE SRL - C.R.C. SRL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH A.E. MEDIA CORPORATION SRL - GABRIELE ANDREOLI
GHOST SON FILMS (UK) LTD IN ASSOCIATION WITH AQUARIUS FILMS CAMAROTE FILMS SL
AND C.NE SOUTH AFRICA -MOVIEWORLD (PTY) LTD


I WILL KILL YOUR MONSTER
BEOWULF
NOVEMBER 14
www.beowulf-asia.com

OPENS NOVEMBER 7
MTRCB Rating G All Ages Admitted
Half his size, twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.
DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE GAMEPLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

red in new TV show

asn't forced to do the show, ght? (And he's getting paid a t to host it).

In. succeeding episodes, owe really needs to see the righter" side of his dismal extence on TV, because he's next ated to: Dive into alligator-insted waters to retrieve lost lf balls. Assist a disaster ean-up crew after a toilet exodes as a result of sewer ck-up. Feed and clean huneds of dirty little pigs and re for a new litter of piglets. nd join an eccentric group of st exterminators who have mmitted their lives to winng the war against rats and gs!

If "Dirty Jobs" has a second ason, we suggest that it exnds its reach beyond the US, d shoot some features in ia, where some jobs are even rtier than the occupation that ost people cringe away from the States.

Come to think of it, could Dirty Jobs" "inspire" a regional local producer to whip up a milar docu-magazine proam focusing on off-putting cupations much closer to me? After all, "localizing" US British TV shows have been ite the rage.

The latest is the Filipino veron of "Are You Smarter Than a fth-Grader," a quiz show hich pits adult contestants ainst American students in e fifth grade. Viewers enjoy is program because it often ows that the kids *are* smarter an their addled, rattled elrs. The show's local version s **Janno Gibbs** as quizmasr.

orks…

was just in a play in Williamstown and I think she has another one soon. **Grace** is in college. My youngest (**Louisa**) is in high school. So they're all busy with their lives.

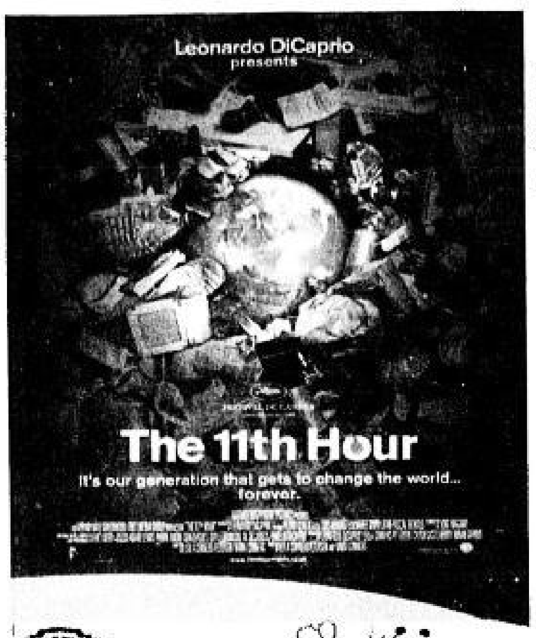
Do you worry that Mamie is going to be judged and compared to you?

Mamie is so brave and foolhardy, too. She has always been like a wild little woman. I remember once we took her brother in to have his head sewn up because he cracked it open. She was jumping off the examining table and she cracked her head open (laughter). So the doctor sewed up two heads that day. Mamie is just ready to go. There's nothing you could do to dissuade her. You need that bravado and joy in big measure and she has all those things. It's a hard business but she's taking whatever comes her way (laughter).

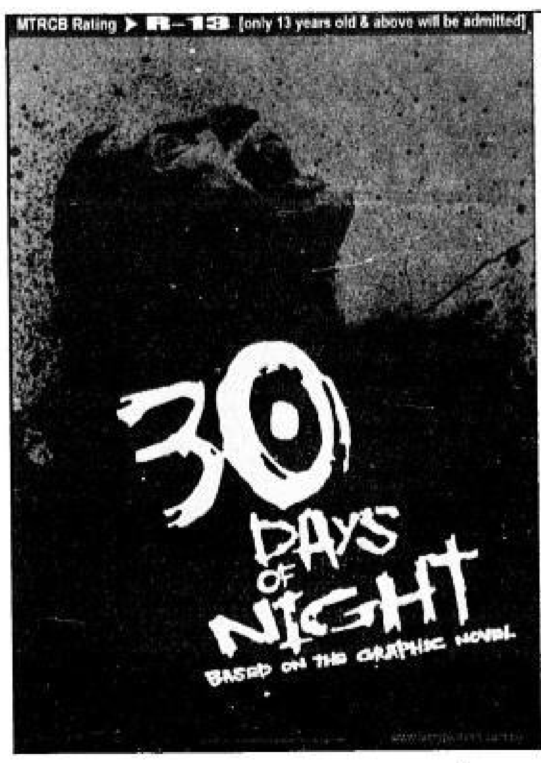
How familiar are you with the ABBA songs?

It has been 20 years since I listened to the songs. I realized that I knew every word of every ABBA song, but I had learned them slightly wrong so there was a little tension there with **Benny** (**Andersson**, co-founder of ABBA) because he's quite a precise taskmaster. But my experience was really fabulous. Greece is beyond wonderful. The place where we filmed was fantastic.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.



Ayala CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT
MARKET! MARKET! CINEMAS
Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
It's our generation that gets to change the world... forever.
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
Opening soon at
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema
AyalaLand beneficiALI WWF

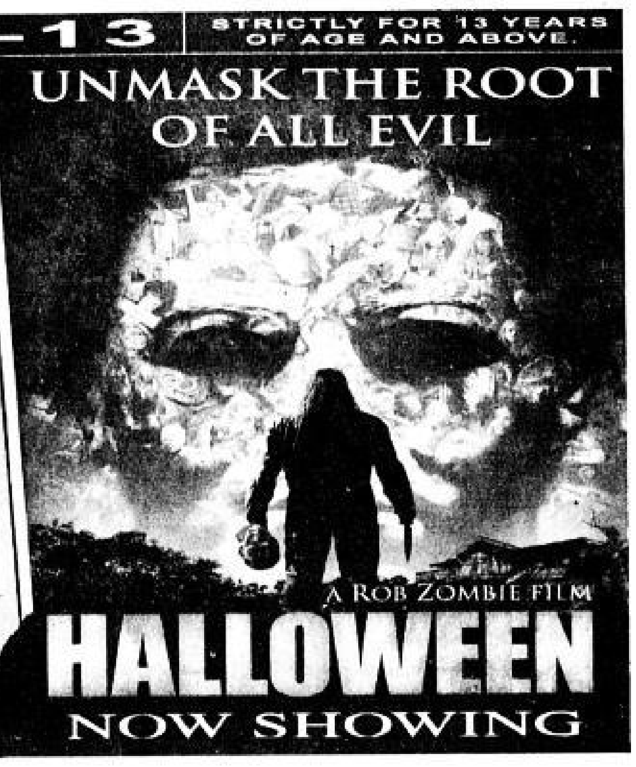

MTRCB Rating ▶ R-13 [only 13 years old & above will be admitted]
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Fright Season Movie Event!
Vampires roam in 30 days of darkness in horror movie starring hot Josh Hartnett
For centuries, vampires have stayed in the dark, forced to hide each morning or else be destroyed by the sun's burning power.
Blood-thirsty, flesh-eating vampires viciously attack Barrow, Alaska, a remote town plunged into 30 days of darkness in winter, bringing its hapless residents to its knees. How do they survive till daylight finally comes?
Hot Hollywood actor and recent Philippines visitor Josh Hartnett stars as the embattled Sheriff Eben in 30 DAYS OF NIGHT, based on the groundbreaking graphic novel by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith.
Bring a date or the barkada to a theatre near you!
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.
HORROR'S BIGGEST GROSSING OPENING WEEKEND: 2007

HALLOWEEN	30,591,759
DISTURBIA	22,224,982
1408	20,667,667
MESSENGERS	17,713,321
30 DAYS OF NIGHT	15, 591,902
28 WEEKS LATER	9,807,292

VIVA

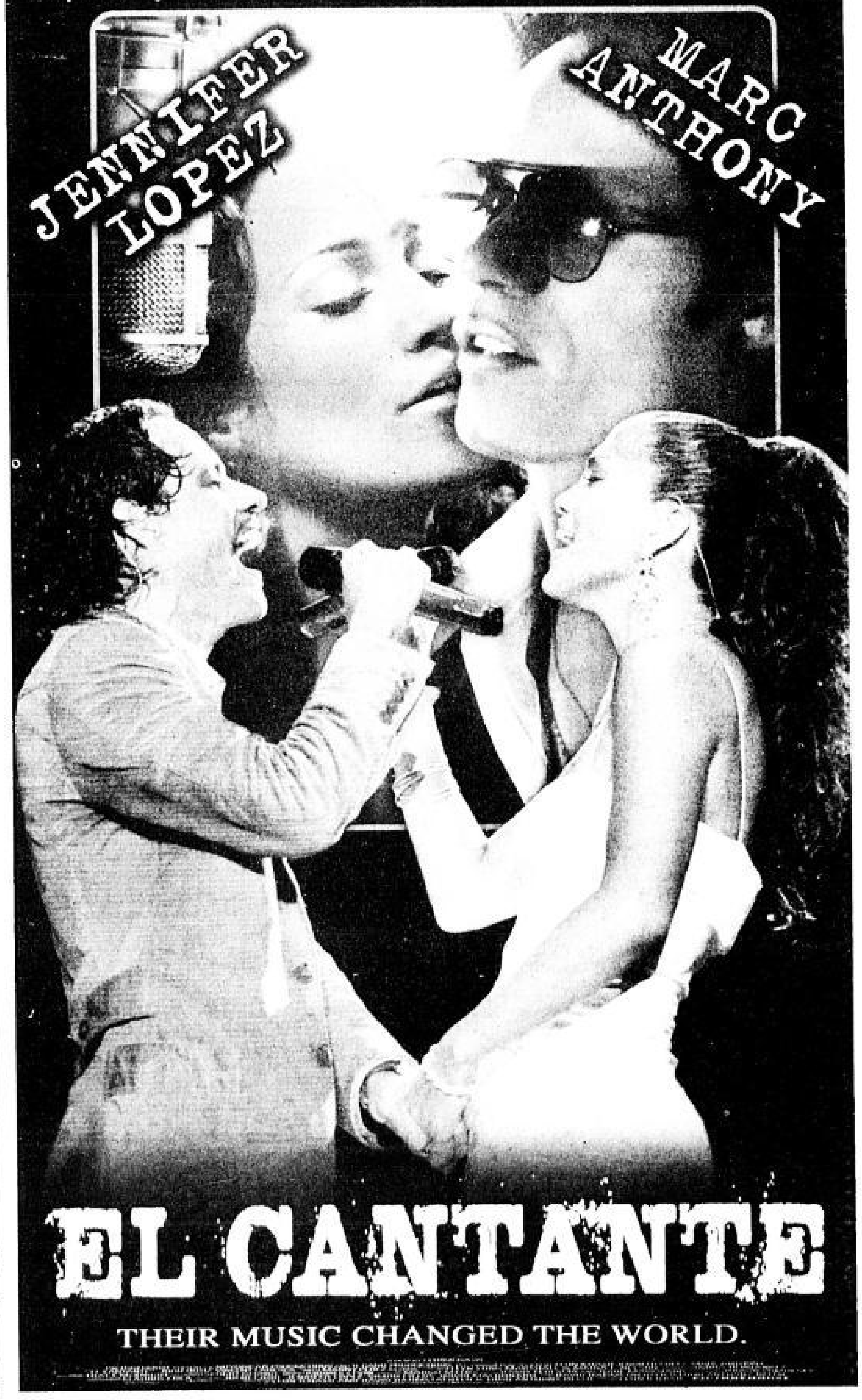

UNMASK THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL
A ROB ZOMBIE FILM
HALLOWEEN
NOW SHOWING

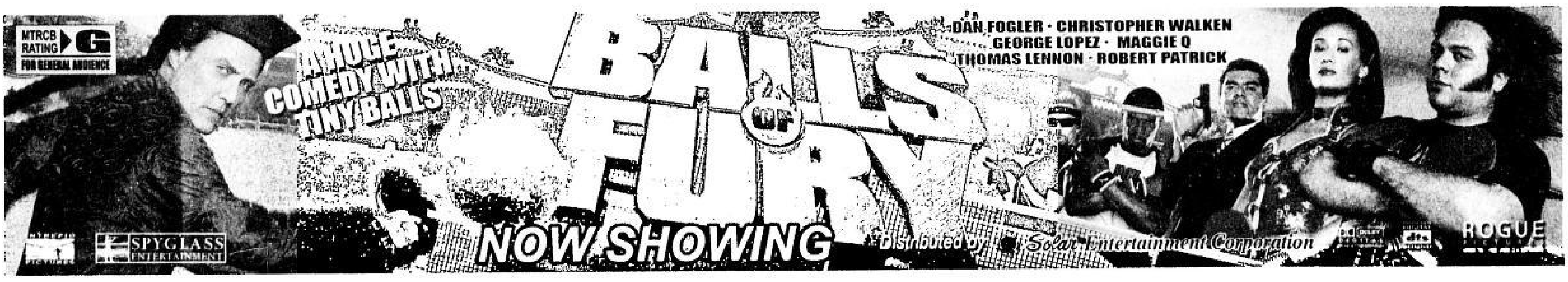
SNEAK PREVIEWS
November 05 & 06
at all
Robinsons Movieworld Branches
REGULAR Showing: November 14
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 NO CUTS
EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE BEST-REVIEWED COMEDY IN YEARS!
"Hilarious... SUPERBAD packs in more gut-busting laughs than you'll be able to count."
- Peter Travers / Rolling Stone
THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

SUPERBAD
www.sonypictures.com.ph
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza Farmers Market
WBC SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
MARQUEZ VS JUAREZ
LIVE VIA SATELLITE
NOV 4 SUN | 8AM
WATCH IT AT
Gateway Cineplex*10
WITH FULL STADIUM SEATING FOR COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS
www.gatewaycineplex10.com
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW! GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 | P350
Gateway Cineplex*10 LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FEET WIDE, 30 FEET HIGH
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
HALLOWEEN 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
HIDE AND SEEK 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 9:00
UNREST 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
RESIDENT EVIL:EXTINCTION 3:10 / 7:50
BALLS OF FURY 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 5:30 / 9:50
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
LUST CAUTION 12:10 / 3:10 / 6:10 / 9:10
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 4:20 / 9:20
RENDITION 1:50 / 6:50
STARDUST 12:55 / 3:35 / 6:15 / 9:00
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 12:45 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00
ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
AI AI AI ... D Greatest Performance Of My Life
Nov. 16, Friday 8pm
AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm
For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net
2007 PHILIPPINES WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP
NOVEMBER 3 TO 11
WATCH THE GREATEST POOL PLAYERS IN THE WORLD!
ARANETA COLISEUM
TICKETS NOW ON SALE

OPENS NOVEMBER 7
Everybody loved him.
One woman understood him.
Inspired by the extraordinary life of salsa legend, Hector Lavoe.


JENNIFER LOPEZ
MARC ANTHONY
EL CANTANTE
THEIR MUSIC CHANGED THE WORLD.


MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
A HUGE COMEDY WITH TINY BALLS
BALLS OF FURY
DAN FOGLER · CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
GEORGE LOPEZ · MAGGIE Q
THOMAS LENNON · ROBERT PATRICK
NOW SHOWING
SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
ROGUE

Mishmash magic

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

IAN McShane, Alexander Ludwig, and Frances Conroy in "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising"

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT HAS BEEN A FAmiliar, even popular, movie theme in recent years, allowing for the proliferation of adventures that focus on younger heroes with awesome powers.

In "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising," yet another fantasy novel is translated to the big screen. But its young protagonist, sadly, is a pale mishmash of characters Harry Potter, Luke Skywalker, and even Frodo. It may not win over too many adults, but the film has enough diverting special effects and intense situations to keep kids occupied, even amazed.

"The Seeker" is barely comprehensible; there is much talk of an age-old conflict between "Light" and "Dark" forces, and the destiny of an ordinary boy. Young Will Stanton (Alexander Ludwig) is fated to become one of the heroes, tasked with gathering "signs" from across time. "Awakened" to the conflict by some elder beings, Will's powers, such as super-strength, pyrokinesis and time-jumping, become integral to surviving attacks from the sinister Rider (Christopher Eccleston) and his ilk.

Again, grownups may not enjoy this as much as the younger viewers, who may dig the boy character with extraordinary abilities. Will's a young teen with confidence problems, and is almost Peter Parker-esque, too.

But because he has all these world-changing powers, he makes you want to root for him. Unfortunately, that's not automatic. You want to like Will, but he's practically devoid of any distinct personality and pathos. He's sent to big, secret missions, sure, but we don't worry for him at all.

And that's what "Seeker" seriously lacks. The boy hero is nothing new, but it's not a very good sign when this "chosen one" goes through quests like it's business as usual, and we don't really care for the outcome. Comparisons with other characters are just inevitable, as well; it's like Will is an amalgam Jedi and Hogwarts student, minus the prestige and "cool" factor.

Ian McShane ("Deadwood") and Frances Conroy ("Six Feet Under") play the hero's mentors and guardians, often relegated to simplistic dialogue and not really explaining in any plausible manner the existence of such warring beings. Just who are these Light and Dark warriors, exactly, and why was Will chosen? Well, if you think too much about it, you'll just find yourself asking more questions, so stop while you're ahead.

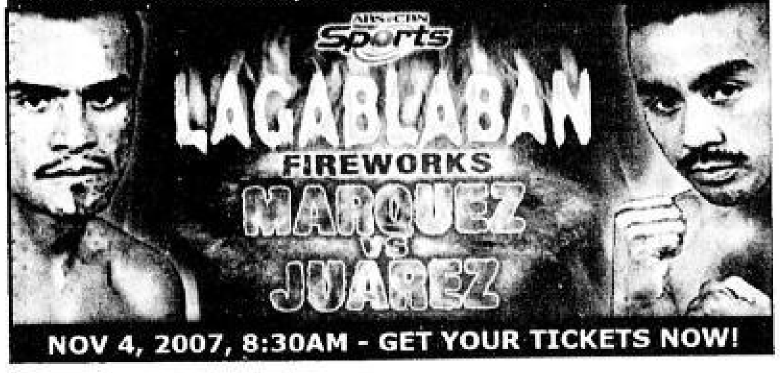
The boy's time jaunts should've been exciting, too, but they aren't. One such teleport to the past transforms him into a shrink. "Your family loves you," he cloyingly tells his possessed older brother (Gregory Smith), who's had recent problems for dropping out of college. That's just so mind-numbingly funny.

"The Seeker" gets lost in today's constantly growing list of fantasy epics, and the flurry of action scenes may be aimed solely at impressionable youngsters. But, however fleetingly, it should give those young viewers some semblance of empowerment and worth.

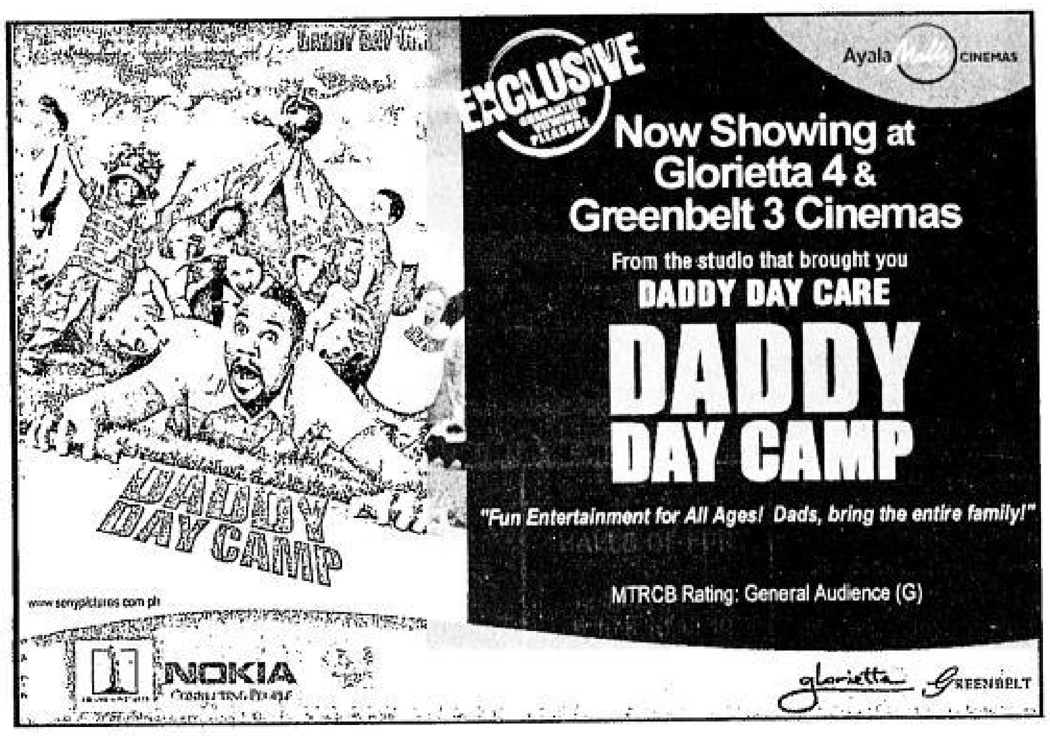
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 DOLBY DIGITAL

HALLOWEEN R13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	RENDITION R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	BALLS OF FURY G 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10
LUST CAUTION R18 1:00,4:10,7:20,10:30	STARDUST G 12:00,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10	30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



ABS-CBN Sports
LAGABLABAN
FIREWORKS
MARQUEZ vs JUAREZ
NOV 4, 2007, 8:30AM - GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
Now Showing at Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 Cinemas
From the studio that brought you DADDY DAY CARE
DADDY DAY CAMP
"Fun Entertainment for All Ages! Dads, bring the entire family!"
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
www.sonypictures.com.ph
NOKIA Connecting People
glorietta GREENBELT

BEN WHISHAW ALAN RICKMAN RACHEL HURD-WOOD DUSTIN HOFFMAN
PERFUME THE STORY OF A MURDERER
EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
NOW ON ITS 3rd WEEK AT TRINOMA CINEMAS
From the director of "RUN LOLA RUN"
Based on the best selling novel
PERFUME
THE STORY OF A MURDERER
"GENIUS. I LOVE THE STORY."
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"SENSUOUS."
Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
Constantin Film DREAMWORKS PICTURES NOKIA Connecting People TriNoma

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS G83 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	2 HALLOWEEN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 HIDE & SEEK
GLORIETTA 4	1 DADDY DAY CAMP	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 THX 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 FRIGHTFEST	6 HALLOWEEN	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 HALLOWEEN	2 BALLS OF FURY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DADDY DAY CAMP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HALLOWEEN	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 STARDUST	5 RENDITION	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HALLOWEEN	2 HIDE & SEEK	3 KUNG FU FIGHTER	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT		
	3 THE 11TH HOUR	4 HALLOWEEN	5 BALLS OF FURY	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 HIDE & SEEK	2 THE UNREST	3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BALLS OF FURY GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 RENDITION	7 THX HALLOWEEN GUARANTEED SEATS	

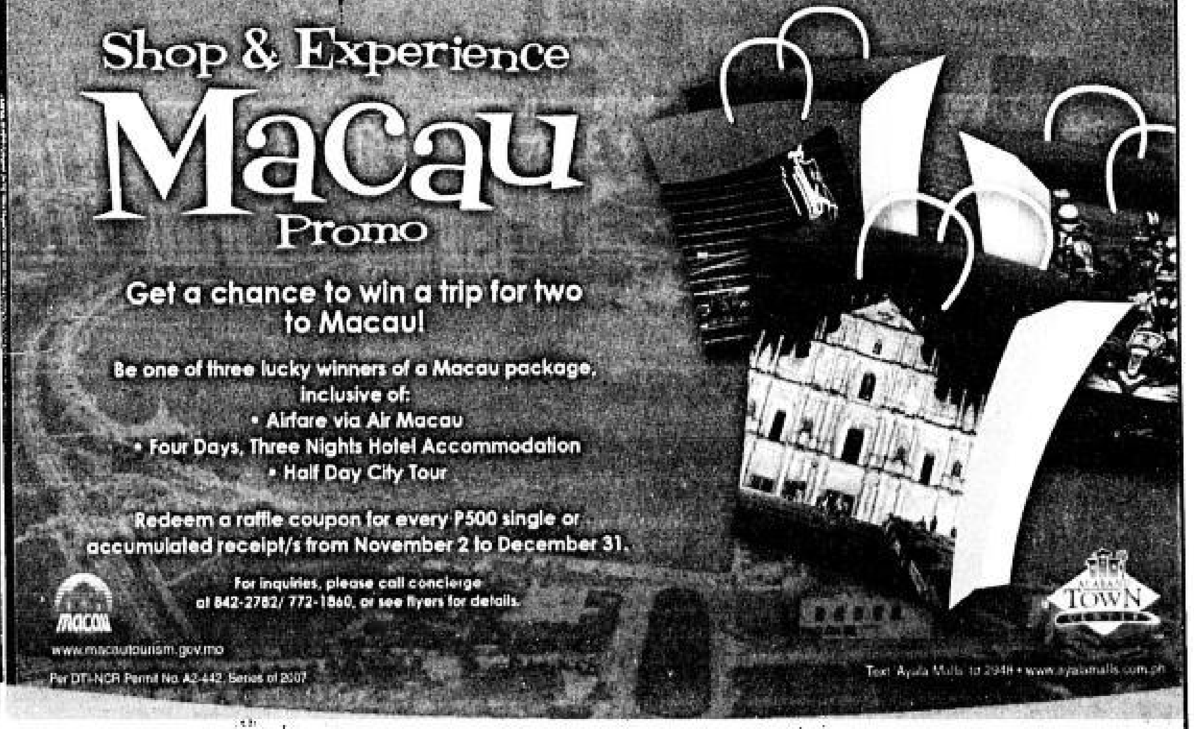
AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Halloween Treat: Dorothy and the Witches of Oz - A Trumpets Musical Theater Performance October 28; 5pm to 6pm; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Dole Pumpkin Carving Contest October 28; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Clear Product Launch October 27 to 28; Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Sesame Street Party November 2; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL
SHOWCASING MASTERPIECE OF WES CRAVEN, JOHN CARPENTER & ALFRED HITCHCOCK FROM OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 4
NOW SHOWING exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED MTRCB Rating: R-13 12:30 PM
THE SERPENT & THE RAINBOW MTRCB Rating: R-18 3:00 PM
THE THING MTRCB Rating: R-18 5:30 PM
VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN 8:00 PM
TREMORS 4 10:30 PM
WATCH THE HALLOWEEN FILM FESTIVAL & GET SPECIAL TREATS FROM
Promo Period: October 26 to November 4, 2007.
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-470. Series of 2007.
NEXT ATTRACTION
Alfred Hitchcock's
THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
SHADOW OF A DOUBT
(Nov. 3 - Sat.)



Shop & Experience Macau Promo
Get a chance to win a trip for two to Macau!
Be one of three lucky winners of a Macau package, inclusive of:
• Airfare via Air Macau
• Four Days, Three Nights Hotel Accommodation
• Half Day City Tour
Redeem a raffle coupon for every P500 single or accumulated receipt/s from November 2 to December 31.
For inquiries, please call concierge at 842-2782/ 772-1860, or see flyers for details.
www.macautourism.gov.mo
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-442, Series of 2007
Text Ayala Malls to 2948 • www.ayalamalls.com.ph
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma